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AGAWAM

Advertiser News

MARCH 15, 2012

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AGAWAM
HOCKEY 17

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A TURLEY PUBLICATION

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Council condenses subcommittees

By Gregory A. Scibelli

Turley Publications Correspondent

AGAWAM — The Agawam City Council is streamlining the way it does business with the consolidation of its subcommittees and ad hoc committees into four broader subcommittees, which will be run

by five council members.

Previously, many of the subcommittees were made up of three members. With the consolidation of the functions, the council agreed five members would be appropriate for the four subcommittees.

A finance subcommittee was established and will combine the

functions of the current committee on finance, the capital improvement budget committee and the ad hoc community preservation act committee.

The town still has a community preservation committee (CPC) made up of citizens and town officials; the ad hoc function for

the council considers applications from the CPC and makes a recommendation to the full council. The full city council is responsible for approving funding for any community preservation act project.

The new legislative subcommittee would combine the functions of the rules and regulations, ordi-

nances, and zoning committees. The charge of the new committee would be reviewing and initiating legislation to be considered by the council.

The internal/external relations subcommittee was renamed by the council through an amendment. **Please see COUNCIL, page 14**

CELEBRATING ST. PATRICK'S DAY



Turley Publications photo by Connie J. Casagrande

2012 Agawam Colleen Allison McCluskey and her court, Nicole Parent, Sarah Murphy, Jenna Fenton, and Kara Franqueza, enjoy a laugh with Mayor Richard Cohen during the Friends of the Agawam Senior Center St. Patricks Day dinner March 7. See more photos, page 15.

AHS seniors receive their 'Academic A's'

By Mike Lydick

Turley Publications Correspondent

With parents, brothers, sisters, grandparents, and other relatives looking on, 166 of Agawam High School's 300 seniors – the Class of 2012 – recently received special recognition for their academic achievements.

Students were honored with certificates – known as the “Agawam Academic A's” – at the beginning of the Feb. 28 school committee meeting in the auditorium of the Roberta G. Doering School. Committee members and Agawam City Councilor George Bitzas congratulated each student after Agawam School Superintendent William Sapelli presented the certificates to members of this year's graduating class.

The certificates, which are similar to sports letters, use the school's brown and orange colors and feature the lamp of education. The high honors are bestowed each year to those students who have maintained a 3.0 (B) cumulative grade-point average (GPA) during their freshman, sophomore, junior years, and the first semester of their senior year. There was an increase of 28 students from the 138 students who received this honor in 2011.

“I'm proud that the number of students receiving this award continues to grow each year,” said Sapelli. “This growth can be attributed not only to the hard work of the students but also to their teachers, administrators, and parents who have stressed the importance of academic excellence.”

Along with the Academic A's certificates, students received a special personalized citation from the Massachusetts State House of Representatives that acknowledged their achievements. State Rep. Nicholas Boldyga, R-Southwick, arranged for the citations and had planned to present them to the students that evening, but a last-minute conflict prevented him from attending.

The certificates have been presented for the past 13 years. While approximately 100 students attended the formal presentation in person, even students unable to attend were recognized with applause as their names were read aloud.

Former school committee member Susan Pettazzoni came up with the idea to create a certificate to honor the academic achievements of AHS students in their senior year.

“I got the idea from a school in California,” recalled Pettazzoni, who served on the committee from 1992 until 2006 and is currently the clerk for the West Springfield Town Council.

Please see ACADEMIC A's, page 14

Leprechaun Plunge proceeds top \$77,000

Feeding Hills resident among participants

By Kristin Will
Staff Writer

SOUTH HADLEY — Slightly-above-freezing water temperatures didn't stop more than 200 locals from leaping into the chilly Connecticut River this past Sunday during Brunelle's Marina Leprechaun Plunge which raised more than \$77,000 for charity.

In its third year, the Plunge has consistently grown in size, as more and more locals pledge to plunge into the cold waters of the Connecticut for good causes. More than 200 individuals pre-registered for the Plunge this year, almost doubling the total amount of 2011's participants. And at least 2,000 spectators filled the marina's parking lot to watch.

“It wasn't as bad as I thought,” said Jessica Bodon of South Hadley, who plunged into the 38-degree waters for the Dana Farber Jimmy Fund. “It was fun! I'd do it again.”

The six charities chosen to benefit from this year's event funds were the Dana Farber Jimmy Fund, the Springfield Shriner's Hospital, the Donnie Baker Scholarship Fund, the Joe Kareta Scholarship Fund, South Hadley youth activities and the South Hadley Neighbors Helping Neighbors Food Pantry. One hundred percent of the proceeds raised were given directly to the six charities.

“It's awesome,” said Patrick Chade. “It really is.” The Granby resident was a member of the B-Dock Beavers plunging team, which chose to raise funds for the Dana Farber Jimmy Fund. Team member Monique Galliher, of Feeding Hills, seconded Chade's praise. “It's awesome ... and cold!” she said.

Chade has participated in the Plunge since its start in 2010 but said this year was “the best one yet.”

Event co-organizer, Luke Brunelle, worked hard to implement improvements suggested to his committee over the years. This year, stands of bleachers were set up in front of the ramp down which plungers ran and plummeted into the water, allowing for more not-so-brave audience members to

Please see PLUNGE, page 14



Turley Publications staff photo by Kristin Will

Luke Brunelle officiates the start to the 2012 Leprechaun Plunge, held at Brunelle's Marina in South Hadley, as he races through the festive banner. The Plunge raised \$77,000 for six charities.



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Agawam Junior Women's Club news



Turley Publications courtesy photo

Junior Women's club member Kim Lanier, left, and Jane Barrientos.

The March meeting of the GFWC Agawam Junior Women's Club (AJWC) will take place Tuesday, March 20 at 6:30 p.m. at the Agawam Senior Center. The AJWC meetings are always open to the public. Anyone interested in learning more about the many community activities and programs the AJWC offers, is welcome to attend. For more information, contact Betsie at 789-7313.

At the club's February meeting, Jane Barrientos gave a presentation about Trompe L'Oeil (trick the eye) paintings. Barrientos brought several samples of Trompe L'Oeil and still life paintings for members to view.

WHERE IS IT?

Each week *Agawam Advertiser News* will feature a photo of a local building, item, sign, place or landmark and ask readers to pick their brains to figure out where it is or even what it is. Check here each week to test your knowledge of the area where we live and work. The photo will be from either Agawam or Feeding Hills, but we'll always give you a hint or two.

The answer to this week's "Where is it?" will run in next week's edition along with the name of the first person to submit a correct answer and a new trivia photo for you to consider.

E-mail answers or future Where Is It? suggestions to editor Jennifer Wroblewski at jwroblewski@turley.com.

Turley Publications photo by Connie J. Casagrande



This week's sign leads to an area that we're sure holds a beautiful view of Feeding Hills. Unfortunately, it's gated. Do you know where it is?



Last week's photo: Scoreboard Bar & Restaurant located on King Street. Correctly guessing the answer were Norma Joniec of Feeding Hills, Rick Parrott of Agawam and Mary Jenks.

Byram Healthcare

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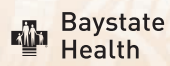
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Welch testifies before judiciary committee

WEST SPRINGFIELD - State Sen. James T. Welch testified last week before the Joint Committee on the Judiciary on Senate Bill 910 – “An Act establishing the murder victim families assistance fund.”

The bill establishes a Murder Victims Families Assistance Fund to provide fiscal aid to immediate families of murder victims. A publisher, author, movie or television studio or company can voluntarily contribute revenues that were earned from a book, movie or television show based on a murder or murders committed in the Commonwealth.

“When a family loses a loved one, especially as a result of a criminal act, the impact is felt well beyond the tragedy itself,” said Welch. “Establishing a fund creates an opportunity for those profiting from these heinous crimes to give back to families in the Commonwealth who have experienced this type of loss.”

The Victim and Witness Assistance Board shall be the custodian of the fund. The Massachusetts Film Office will notify relevant parties of the existence of the fund. The Office of District Attorney can request distribution of the fund to the victim’s family.

Knapiks to host annual post-parade reception

WESTFIELD - State Sen. Michael R. Knapik, R-Westfield, will host his Annual St. Patrick’s Post-Parade Reception and invites all his constituents to join him, his wife Kathy, and their children, Katie and Jimmy, at the Wherehouse? in Holyoke.

The reception will be held immediately following the Holyoke St. Patrick’s Parade on Sunday, March 20, from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Wherehouse? Banquet Facility on Lyman Street, located at the end of the parade route.

The reception is free of charge and will include hors d’oeuvres.

Families with children are encouraged to attend as there will be musical entertainment provided by the Pioneer Valley Fiddlers.

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Book delves into economic gamble

By Sarah Platanitis
Turley Publications Correspondent

Agawam Advertiser News Correspondent Christopher Faille has published his second book, *Gambling with Borrowed Chips: The Common Misdiagnosis of the Crisis of 2007–08*.

“There has been a lot of serendipity in the path that led me to my present interests and to this book,” said Faille, who practiced real estate and housing law in Bridgeport, Conn., until he realized that writing about legal issues and finance was his true passion.

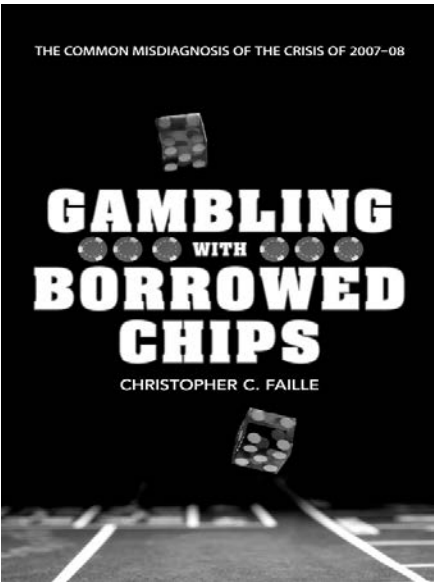
“The housing bubble of the first years of this millennium, the credit crunch of 2007, the stock crash of 2008, are all in the history books. Time travel is impossible, so we can only work forward. My book proposes that we should be wary of remedies that amount to hairs of the dog that bit us,” said Faille, who holds a bachelor’s degree in political science from Poughkeepsie’s Marist College and a Juris Doctor from Western New England School of Law.

Faille sees “easy money, loose accounting, entrenched corporate managements” as the catches that burst the bubble that wrecked the U.S. economy. He hopes that his book will serve as an additional voice in the public debate during the slow rebuilding processes.

“The Federal Reserve cheapened credit in order to rescue the U.S. economy from the relatively mild recession of 2000-2002, and the lending supported by that cheapening was bound to put money into the hands of people who didn’t know what to do with it. That is what such a cheapening does and the party is what explains the hangover,” said Faille.

Faille describes his book’s ideal audience as an informed and engaged group of curious readers interested in the reasons for the economic collapse.

“This is not a work written for economics Ph.D. candidates or finance wonks. It expounds a broad thesis as to what did and didn’t happen in 2007-2008,” said Faille.



Turley Publications submitted photo

Gambling with Borrowed Chips is a newly published book by Agawam Advertiser News correspondent Christopher Faille.

“Along the way, I demonstrate that obscure-sounding concepts from banking, monetary economics, and accounting practice don’t have to be obscure. Once broken down into their component parts, they lie open to the grasp of old-fashioned common sense.”

One of Faille’s earliest stories for *Agawam Advertiser News* was not finance-related. Instead, it was a review of the Robert Romer book, *Slavery in the Connecticut Valley of Massachusetts*. Much of his work since has been about business and economic issues, from covering stories about capital improvement projects at Six Flags to a front-page piece about mayoral candidate views of the town’s business climate.

“I began writing for *Agawam Advertiser News* in the fall of 2010 and continue to do so, although my writing recently has slowed due to the press of matters relating to the publication of this book. I hope to get back to it shortly,” said Faille. His first book, a political history of the U.S. Supreme Court, entitled *The Decline and Fall of the Supreme Court*, was published in 1995.

From 2000 until 2008, the Enfield, Conn. resident wrote for *Lipper HedgeWorld*, a now-defunct news organization dedicated to the reporting of hedge funds.

“I stayed with *Lipper HedgeWorld* right through that acquisition and was still there when the news operation was closed down as a cost-saving move by the parent company, Thomas Reuters. I had helped over eight years to pioneer a new journalistic beat and I treasure the experience,” said Faille.

Faille makes regular contributions to *Forbes.com* and *AllAboutAlpha* on investment advice and Wall Street happenings. He has also been published in *Reason* magazine.

Interested readers can buy Faille’s latest book on the publisher’s website, bookstore.abbottpress.com, in a softcover format for \$13.99 or an e-book file for \$3.99 with files available for ePub, Mobi, and PDF.

For more information about Chris Faille, visit his personal blog, *Pragmatism Refreshed*, cfaille.blogspot.com.



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Opinion

An important health issue

March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, which provides us with an important reminder that people over the age of 50 need to have a baseline colonoscopy performed. According to the Centers for Disease and Prevention Control, if everyone had this test, over 60 percent of deaths from this type of cancer could be avoided.

The test does two things. First, it allows doctors to find precancerous polyps so they can be removed before they turn into cancer. And second, screening can result in early diagnosis of the disease, when treatment often leads to a cure.

Statistics show colorectal cancer (cancer of the colon or rectum) is the second leading cause of cancer deaths in this country. Every year, more than 140,000 Americans are diagnosed with the disease and more than 50,000 people die from it.

The problem with identifying it is there are often no symptoms until it has advanced in the body. Symptoms that do occur can include blood in bowel movements or stomach pain, aches or cramps that do not go away and weight loss without any explanation. Although these symptoms can result from other conditions, it is important to see a doctor if you are experiencing any of them.

Many insurance plans and Medicare pay for at least part of the test. However, men and women aged 50 to 64 who are underinsured or uninsured and meet specific criteria can access testing through the CDC's Colorectal Cancer Control Program. In addition, according to their Website, these screening services are integrated with other publicly funded health programs or clinics that serve underserved populations whenever possible, such as CDC's National Breast and Cervical Early Detection Program, CDC's WISEWOMAN Program, and the Health Resources and Services Administration's Health Centers.

In other words, although some people avoid having a colonoscopy because drinking the liquid required the night before can be unpleasant or they think they cannot af-



ford it, there is no good reason for anyone not to be tested. It is far better to remove polyps and prevent the disease or catch it early than to suffer and die from something that could have been prevented or stopped in its tracks.

We hope that our readers will take this advice to heart. The old adage, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," certainly applies, and can make the difference between life and death.

2012 Turley election policy

This newspaper will print free self-submitted statements of candidacy combined together in a special issue four weeks out from any election. All candidates running in both contested and uncontested races will be asked to submit their statements to the editor to include only biographical and campaign platform details. Total word count for statements is limited to between 300-500 words maximum. Please include a photo. We will not publish any statements of candidacy after our special election coverage issue. To publish any other campaign publicity during the election, please contact our Advertising Representative John Baskin at

786-7747 or jbaskin@turley.com. We also do not allow personal attacks against other candidates or political parties in statements of candidacy, nor do we publish for free any information about key endorsements or political fundraisers.

Letters to the editor of no more than 250 words from supporters endorsing specific candidates or discussing campaign issues are limited to three total per candidate during the election season. No election letters will appear in the final edition before the election. We reserve the right to edit all statements of candidacy and letters to the editor to meet our guidelines.

Letters to the Editor

The Easter ribbon

To the editor:

Every Sunday when my family trooped into our pew at Sacred Heart Church in Feeding Hills, Mrs. Ziegert would follow with her brood to occupy the seat behind us. We were Sunday morning acquaintances. I didn't know much about their lives until the morning of April 16, 1992 when I picked up the morning paper to discover that Lisa, their 24 year-old daughter had been abducted.

Lisa was a beautiful young woman who worked as a teacher's aide in the Agawam Middle School and had a part-time job at a local card and gift shop. She disappeared from the shop sometime between 8:30 and 9 on the evening of April 15, leaving only a smear of blood on the back door as testimony of her kidnapping.

Our small Massachusetts community was devastated. Lisa's picture appeared everywhere as police and the FBI searched to find her. Four days later on Easter Sunday, I recall saying a silent prayer that she would be found. Her partially clothed body was discovered that afternoon in a remote wooded area of our town. We would not know until months later that she had been raped and was killed with a single knife wound to the throat.

Investigations into her death brought forth no viable suspects. A year passed. On Easter of 1993, Mrs. Ziegert and her family stood at the entrance of our church and distributed white ribbons in remembrance of Lisa. They were hopeful that the airing of her story on "Unsolved Mysteries" would bring forth some new information. It did not. Her killer or killers were still at large.

For many of those 20 years, Mrs. Ziegert has

distributed white ribbons on Easter morning. During that time there have been happy and sad occasions for this family. Their faith and strength is remarkable as they relive their heartache while supporting other families who have lost their children.

Each time I view an episode of "Cold Case" on television, I hope that somehow a clue will emerge and Lisa's case will be reopened and solved. I will not be in Massachusetts on Easter Sunday this year, but I won't need a white ribbon to remind me of this young life taken by the hands of a monster that has managed to get away with murder.

Ann Favreau
Venice, Fla.

Comedy show fundraiser a huge success

To the editor:

The Agawam Lions wish to thank all patrons who attended our annual comedy show fundraiser held Saturday, March 3 at the beautiful K of C Camelot Room in Chicopee.

Also, thanks to our dedicated committee members, volunteers and the following local businesses, organizations and individuals who donated certificates, funds or items to our raffle programs that helped make our fundraiser a huge success.

Berkshire Bank, Cost Cutters of Agawam, Fitness First, Ludlow Tennis Club, Parthenon Restaurant, Stop & Shop, St. Anne Country Club, The Big E, Wal-Mart Westfield, Agawam Country Club, Hampden Bank Agawam, Hong Kong

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Also, thanks to our anonymous donor of Red Sox tickets.

We hope to see everyone again next year at the same location Saturday, March 2.

Mike Roy
Committee Chairman
Agawam Lions Club

Call your legislators about childhood sexual abuse bill

I am writing to inform people about a Bill H.469, an act relating to comprehensive protection from childhood sexual abuse which will be voted on by legislators March 21.

This bill will extend the statute of limitations for a victim to come forward to tell of childhood abuse from their perpetrator. At this time, 64 legislators are in favor of the bill.

Please see LETTERS, page 5

Letters to the Editor must include a name, address, and daytime telephone number for author verification purposes. We do not publish anonymous letters. All letters are subject to editing for content and space. The deadline is Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. Please send letters to *Agawam Advertiser News*, Letters to the Editor, Attn: Teri Machia, 23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030 or e-mail aan@turley.com.



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‘Loose Lips’

During World War II the saying was, “Loose Lips Sink Ships.” Well, they do more than that – they sink families, relationships, marriages, and churches. Gossip with a critical spirit is one of the most destructive forces in our lives. Here is a poem that describes it so well:

My Name is Gossip
I have no respect for justice
I maim without killing
I break hearts and ruin lives.
I am cruel and malicious and gather strength with age,
The more I am quoted, the more I am believed.
I flourish at every level of society.
My victims are helpless.
They cannot protect themselves against me because I have no name and no face.
To track me down is impossible.
The harder you try, the more elusive I become.
I’m nobody’s friend.
I topple governments and ruin marriages.
I ruin careers and cause sleepless nights,

heartache and indigestion.
I spawn suspicion and generate grief.
I make innocent people cry in their pillows.
Even my name hisses--- my name is gossip.

Fault-finding is like window washing. All the dirt seems to be on the other side.
There’s a new series on TV depicting gossip in a church called GBC (Good Christian Belles). It’s on ABC, Sunday nights at 10 p.m. and stars a Christian actress named Kristin Chenowetz, who plays the part of the lead gossip at a Baptist church in Dallas Texas. She’s always jumping to conclusions and assuming the worst in others and is the first to spread it around.

LETTERS, from page 4

Currently in Massachusetts, a victim has 27 years from his or her 16th birthday to come forward. This bill was extended in 2006 from 15 years to the current 27 years. I personally told my story at the Boston Statehouse to help extend this timeframe. I also hosted safety events in Chicopee in 2008 and 2009 at the Knights of Columbus. My key reasons for doing so were to protect children.
Since these events I have not stopped talking and educating people. Today, I continue to speak at Holyoke Community College and the Springfield Technical Community College Police Academy frequently thanks to retired Police Chief of Granby, Louis Barry.
I am also one of the trainers with Enough Abuse Campaign (www.enoughabuse.org) who is working with Dr. Stephen Boos at Baystate Medical Center. He will be the keynote Speaker at the Child Flag raising ceremony in Springfield in April during Child

Abuse Prevention Month along with the trainers.
I will be also be training daycare providers in April on April 14 from 10 a.m. to noon at Smart Start Preschool in Agawam and daycare providers in all cities are welcome. The training is free and two hours credit will be given to daycare providers for attending. The event is free. Reservations are needed at www.enoughabuse.org.
All adults including teachers, counselors, coaches, daycare providers should attend this seminar. You can never be taught enough about preventing sexual abuse. Please help get H.469 passed by contacting Representative Eugene O’Flaherty, House Speaker Robert DeLeo and your senators and legislators before the March 21 deadline. Your call, email, or letter will count.

Kathy Picard
Ludlow

FAITH
MATTERS



REV. EARL E.
EISENBACH, PASTOR
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Jesus actually preached against gossip in the Sermon on the Mount. In Matthew 7:1-4 (Message translation)
“Don’t pick on people, jump on their failures, and criticize their faults—unless, of course, you want the same treatment. That critical spirit has a way of boomeranging. It’s easy to see a smudge of your neighbors face and be oblivious to the ugly smear on your own. Do you have the nerve to say, let me wash your face for you, when your own face is distorted by contempt? It’s this whole traveling road-show mentality all over again, playing a ho-

liar-than-thou part instead of just living your part. Wipe that ugly sneer off your own face, and you might be fit to offer a washcloth to your neighbor.”

There is no place in the Christian life for a “Censorious” spirit. It’s hypercritical and just plain mean. We all used to say as kids, “sticks and stone may break my bones, but names may never hurt me” – but they do! Jesus calls us to have a heart for others and to trust them with kindness and consideration – the same way we want to be treated. Fairness builds up both parties, diminishes neither. Fair love keeps its commitments – “I’ll be there for you – you can count on it.” Fair love forgives fairly and gives others a second change. Love is what you have been through with somebody. The way to love someone is to lightly run your finger over their soul until you find a crack, and then gently pour your love into the crack. It’s better to bite your tongue than to bite off the other person’s head! Love cures people – both the ones who “give it” and ones who “receive it.” We are actually called to “be as Christ to others.” So ask yourself – do I ever do that? Am I guilty of gossip? And just stop it! And treat others the way you want to be treated and in so doing you will be like Christ. Isn’t that something to aspire to!

Child abuse training event set for April 14

AGAWAM — Day care providers in Agawam and surrounding communities will have the opportunity to participate in a training event on Saturday, April 14 from 10 a.m. to noon at Smart Start Preschool, 17 Begley St., Agawam, as part of Child Abuse Prevention Month.
The training is for early education and care professionals who work with children from birth to 5 years old. The goal of the training is to demonstrate a model for responding to sexual behaviors to promote healthy child development and prevent child abuse.
It draws upon the latest research on

child and sexual abuse prevention to provide new information and strategies about how to increase early education professionals’ skills and confidence in responding proactively to issues of sexual development and sexual abuse.
To register, visit www.enoughabuse.org. Go to events section and find the event to register online.
The Enough Abuse Campaign is a comprehensive state and communities mobilization initiative working to build a movement of concerned citizens educated about child sexual abuse and engaged in direct actions to prevent it.

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Westfield - Exceptional quality & value best describes this 3-bedroom, 1.5 bath, brick home. Maintenance free exterior, quiet residential location and relaxing back yard makes this a must see. Hardwood floors throughout, an oversized living room and ample closet space are just some of the features. Bang for your buck comes to mind with this large single floor living ranch. Very easy to show, a must see to fully appreciate! #1334554

NEW LISTING



\$269,900

Chicopee - Beautiful open layout Ranch to be built. Lovely front porch leads into foyer entrance and spacious living room with cathedral ceiling. Large rooms with plenty of closet space. Gorgeous kitchen design with center island/bar and allowance for your choice of cabinetry and granite counters. Laundry on 1st floor and 2-car garage. 2 different home design layouts to choose from. Work with the builder to customize your home! Choose your wall, flooring, bath, and kitchen colors. Make this home your own! #1346215



\$339,900

Many pleasant surprises are found in this beautiful 5-bed, 3.5-bath one time ranch now expanded colonial. 2-bdrms are on the 1st floor and the remaining 3 on the 2nd floor. The 1st floor defines wide open floor plan with an incredible front entry room. The completely renovated kitchen is off the back of the home giving more room. This home was designed to utilized space to the fullest. Closets galore, huge basement, 2-concrete patios, a rear garage door, fenced in yard and so on. #1313179

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CONDOMINIUM



\$209,900

Desirable Longbrook Estates is the setting for this exceptional townhouse. Open 1st floor living area features fully-appliance kitchen which opens to the dining room. Step down into spacious living room with corner fireplace & sliders to a balcony/deck. 2nd floor boasts spacious master bedroom & master bath, a second spacious bedroom with walk-in closet and 2nd full bath. Expanded living area on lower level with three finished rooms and unique built-ins! This unit also has an attached garage. #1333889



\$163,000

Desirable location with this spacious, garden, style, end unit condo. Offering 2 bedrooms and two baths. Also, fireplace, central air, open basement with potential. Add your own TLC. Two parking spaces included, low assoc. fee. #1286370.



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Visit Homes for Heroes at www.homesforheroes.com to see for yourself how the program can benefit you. George Moriarty is your local Homes for Heroes Affiliate. Contact him directly at 413-330-8328 or email george.moriarty@century21.com.

Implementing organic lawn care

REGION — Five municipal parks in the Hampshire and Hampden county areas – including one right here in Agawam – will transition from using synthetic petrochemical fertilizers and pesticides to using organic practices and materials. These parks attract thousands of visitors each year, creating an ideal opportunity to demonstrate the benefits and beauty of organic lawn care.

Participating municipal parks are:

School Street Park, Agawam, located within walking distance of the Connecticut River, School Street Park features 50 acres of land with four multi-purpose athletic fields, a handicap accessible playscape, a basketball court, shuffleboard and bocce ball courts, walking trails, picnic tables, and a historic barn. The park has a high volume of adult and children using its facilities.

Look Park, Northampton, which offers recreational opportunities for walkers, runners, bikers, and other users. One of its focal points is a grass 2,200-person capacity outdoor concert theatre. Earlier this year, using a Toxics Use Reduction Institute (TURI) grant, this outdoor theater transitioned to a petrochemical- and pesticide-free venue.

Greenwood Park in Longmeadow abuts Greenwood Center, which houses the Council on Aging and the Longmeadow Park and Recreation Childcare Center. The Childcare Center uses Greenwood Park daily for its outdoor activities, as does the Council on Aging for certain seasonal events.

Town Center Park, Ludlow, where town officials plan to use TURI funding to transition the park into a pesticide- and petrochemical-free space. The park, which hosts a summer community concert series, is located in a highly visible area in the center of town and the concert series is well attended.

Wisteriahurst Museum Grounds, Holyoke, which was given to the city of Holyoke in 1959 for cultural and educational purposes. The grounds contain extensive ornamental gardens and an expansive lawn. The museum is home to the Master Gardener's Association and hosts weekly meetings and multiple plant sales and regional conferences throughout the year.

In addition to their actual lawn care programs, each park will participate in an extensive public awareness and promotion campaign including workshops and seminars, display banners, lawn signs, brochures, and promotions at local park events.

Funding for this project is provided by a grant from the Toxics Use Reduction Institute (TURI) at UMass Lowell to the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission. To learn more about the project or organic land care practices, visit www.thinkbluema.org.

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Agawam Rotary to meet

The Agawam Rotary Club will meet Wednesday, March 21 at 12:15 p.m. at Storowton Tavern for lunch. Guest speaker will be David Fleury of Rulewich Fleury Golf Design. As Rotarians, they sponsor local scholarships and charities and raise money for local, national, and international service projects, including the worldwide elimination of polio and providing clean drinking water. For more information on Rotary International, visit rotary.org.

Welch schedules office hours

WEST SPRINGFIELD - State Sen. James T. Welch will hold office hours at the Agawam Public Library, Thursday, March 22 from 9 to 11 a.m. One of the senator's community outreach specialists will be present.

A member of the senator's staff can be reach Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at either the West Springfield District Office at (413) 737-7756 or the Springfield District Office at (413) 737-7703.

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Public Safety

POLICE LOG

The Agawam Police Department responded to 300 calls from March 6 to March 12. The department made nine arrests. Those arrested will appear at a future date in Westfield District Court and are innocent until proven guilty.

Tuesday, March 6

Kelly Francis Rooney, 49, homeless, was arrested on an arrest warrant.

Wednesday, March 7

Everett Brown, 44, of 22 Upland St., Springfield, was arrested on charges of possession of Class B drug (two counts); possession of Class A drug; possession of open container of alcohol in motor vehicle; and operating an unregistered motor vehicle/trailer.

Thursday, March 8

Wade Roberts, 28, of 238 River Road, Agawam, was arrested on a default warrant for failure to appear.
Jonathan D. Reeser, 31, of 141 Old Farm Road, East Longmeadow, was

arrested on a charge of operating a motor vehicle with license suspended.

Friday, March 9

David Blanchard, 42, of 23 Suffield St., Apt. 8, Agawam, was arrested on a default warrant for failure to appear.

Saturday, March 10

Nicholas Lemoine Connors, 29, of 81 Clearbrook Drive, Springfield, was arrested on a charge of disorderly conduct.

James A. Delpeschio, 28, of 76 Cambridge St., Feeding Hills, was arrested on a charge of disorderly conduct.

Jasmine Elitte Gonzalez, 23, of 71 Berkley Drive, Apt. B2, Hartford, Conn., was arrested on charges of assault and battery (two counts) and disorderly conduct.

Nicholas Tyler Mavis, 23, of 1 Beldon Court, Apt. N4, Agawam, was arrested on a charge of possession to distribute Class D drug.

FIRE LOG

The Agawam Fire Department responded to 76 EMS calls for the week of March 6 to March 12.

On March 6 at 1:18 p.m., the department responded to Yale Avenue for alarm system sounding, no fire – unintentional.

On March 7 at 4:16 p.m., the department responded to Cricket Road for a lockout.

On March 7 at 6:34 p.m., the department responded to Meadow Street for unauthorized burning.

On March 8 at 11:51 p.m., the department responded to Paul Revere Drive for alarm system sounding due to malfunction.

On March 9 at 11:08 a.m., the department responded to Cooper Street for a lockout.

On March 9 at 2:50 p.m., the department responded to Reed Street for unauthorized burning.

On March 10 at 2:18 p.m., the department responded to Main Street for smoke detector activation due to malfunction.

On March 11 at 10:10 a.m., the department responded to Alfred Court for alarm system sounding, no fire – unintentional.

On March 12 at 2:15 p.m., the department responded to Shoemaker Lane for a vehicle accident with injuries.

Firefighter exam set for April 28

BOSTON — The Human Resource Division has scheduled a Municipal Service Firefighter Examination that will be held Saturday, April 28.
Applicants can visit the Human Resources Division at www.mass.gov/civilservice for a detailed description

of the application procedures, specific minimum entrance requirements, and important information about the Entry Level Physical Abilities Test (ELPAT). Applicants are encouraged to apply online for this examination.



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Families

Quilting show set for this weekend

AGAWAM – The Pioneer Valley Quilters will host “2012 Pieces of Time,” Friday, March 16 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday, March 17 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, March 18 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The quilt show will be held at the Woodward Athletic Center on the campus of Westfield State University, 577 Western Ave.

An auction is scheduled for Saturday at 2 p.m. Admission is \$8. Soups, salads, sandwiches and snacks will be available. Parking is free and buses are welcome. No strollers, please.

For more information, contact Judi Wilson at (413) 262-1708 or email patchwork-bema@hotmail.com

Fashion show to benefit two charities

Cooper's Gift & Curtain Shop, 161 Main St., Agawam will host a Vera Bradley Fashion Show with clothing by Kohl's of West Springfield, modeled by friends of the Ronald McDonald House Thursday, March 22 at 6 p.m.

Kohl's has a group of volunteers called the “A Team” that earn a corporate grant of \$500 for the selected children's charity. Guests may purchase raffle tickets for a variety of prizes from popular vendors, with all proceeds going to the Ronald McDonald House.

Cooper's is also encouraging its customers to clean out their closets and drawers for another worthy charity. Representatives

from the “Dress for Success” organization will be on hand to accept interview-appropriate accessory donations (no casual clothing). The mission of “Dress for Success” is to promote the economic independence of disadvantaged women by providing professional attire, a network of support and the career development tools to help women thrive in work and life.

Like-new clothing (with hangers), accessories, jewelry and shoes (especially larger-sized shoes) will be accepted. Monetary donations are always welcome to maintain an adequate inventory.

For more information, call (413) 786-7760.

A parade tradition...



Turley Publications courtesy photo

Agawam's 2012 Colleen and Court made a stop recently at Cooper's, located at 161 Main St., to receive personalized lap blankets given to each girl from Kate Leary Gourde, shopkeeper at Cooper's. The girls will use the blankets this Sunday to help keep their legs warm during the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade. Standing, from left, Nicole Parment, Gourde, and Kara Franqueza. Seated, from left, Sarah Murphy, Allison McCluskey (Colleen), and Jenna Fenton.

Arts

A 'Roaring '20s' tribute



Turley Publications courtesy photo

Flappers from Agawam performing in the Red Door Theatre's musical production of “Flapper” are (back row, from left), Rachel Seaver, Lanea Bushey, Makenna Moen, Claire Seaver, Bree Bernard, Quiana Dickson, Valerie Lattell and Amanda Delore, and (kneeling, from left) Carly Simoneau and Regina McCoy from Southwick and Suffield. The musical tribute to the “Roaring '20s” runs Thursday, March 15, Friday, March 16 and Saturday, March 17 at 7:30 p.m. with 2 p.m. matinees Saturday and Sunday. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for students and seniors. For reservations, call (413) 789-2026 or go to reddoortheatre.com for more information.

Richard Clark returns in one-man play

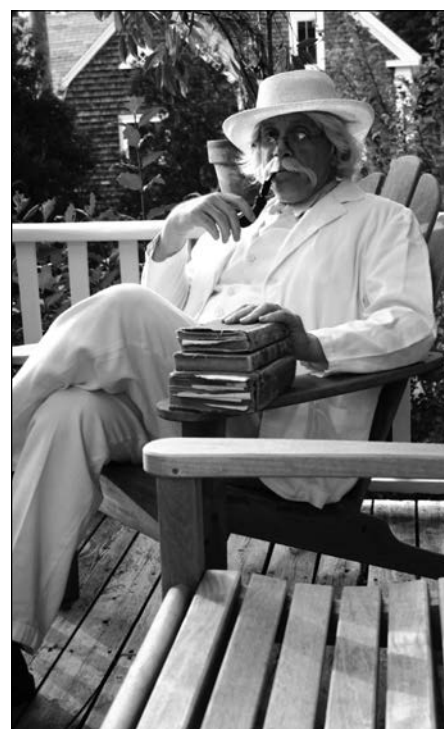
The eighth season of the Agawam Cultural Council's popular Applause Series continues Friday, April 13 at 7:30 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library when Richard Clark returns for his fourth Applause Series appearance. “And now...Mark Twain!” presents a delightful look at the life and work of Mark Twain, the greatest American humorist of his age.

Full of wit, wisdom, and the special brand of storytelling that made Twain a legend in his time and for all time, Richard Clark's one-man play will make you want to revisit all of Twain's works. Clark is a veteran Applause Series performer, and was previously seen as John Barrymore in 2007, and Ernest Hemingway, and Clarence Darrow in 2010.

He has spent recent years professionally in New York theater and television. His credits include “The Kennedys of Massachusetts,” “Guiding Light,” “As the World Turns” and “Saturday Night Live.” He has also appeared in many regional theaters, including major roles in “Inherit The Wind,” “One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest,” “The Crucible,” “The Foreigner,” “To Kill a Mockingbird” and “Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?”

The Agawam Public Library is located at 750 Cooper St. and can be reached by phone at (413) 789-1550. This event is free and open to the public.

Additional information on each of the Applause Series events is available at the Agawam Cultural Council web site, www.agawamcc.org.



Turley Publications courtesy photo

Richard Clark returns to the Applause Series stage in his one-man play “And now...Mark Twain” April 13 at the Agawam Public Library.



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In the Classroom

Agawam Schools' weekly lunch menu

AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL

Monday, March 19: Baked chicken O's with dipping sauce, steamed white rice, seasoned green beans, fresh and chilled fruit, Rice Krispie Treat.

Tuesday, March 20: Meatball grinder with shredded mozzarella, Cape Cod Chips, vegetable, fresh and chilled fruit, Jell-O with topping.

Wednesday, March 21: Roasted turkey with gravy over mashed potatoes, dinner roll, seasoned peas and carrots, fresh and chilled fruit, sundae cups.

Thursday, March 22: Cheeseburger on a roll with lettuce and tomato, baked fries, vegetable, fresh and chilled fruit, dessert.

Friday, March 23: Domino's Pizza Day.

**ROBERTA G. DOERING
SCHOOL**

Monday, March 19: Baked popcorn chicken bites with dipping sauce, steamed white rice, seasoned green beans, fresh and chilled fruit, pudding with topping.

Tuesday, March 20: Meatball grinder with shredded mozzarella, baked Cheetos, vegetable, fresh and chilled fruit, Jell-O with topping.

Wednesday, March 21: Roasted turkey with gravy over mashed potatoes, dinner roll, seasoned peas and carrots, fresh and chilled fruit, sundae cups.

Thursday, March 22: Shaved ham and cheese grinder, Cape Cod Chips, baby carrots, juice box, Oreo cookies.

Friday, March 23: Stuffed crust cheese pizza, salad with lite dressing, fresh and chilled fruit, cookie.

**AGAWAM JUNIOR HIGH
SCHOOL**

Monday, March 19: Baked chicken O's with dipping sauce, mashed potatoes, seasoned green beans, fresh and chilled fruit, Rice Krispie Treat.

Tuesday, March 20: Meatball grinder with shredded mozzarella, Cape Cod Chips, vegetable, fresh and chilled fruit, Jell-O with topping.

Wednesday, March 21: Roasted turkey with gravy over mashed potatoes, dinner roll, seasoned peas and carrots, fresh and chilled fruit, sundae cups.

Thursday, March 22: Cheeseburger on a roll with condiments and pickle, baked potato wedges, green squash coins, fresh and chilled fruit, pudding with topping.

Friday, March 23: Cheese pizza wedge, salad with lite dressing, fresh and chilled fruit, cookie.

**AGAWAM ELEMENTARY
SCHOOLS**

Monday, March 19: Baked popcorn chicken bites with dipping sauce, steamed white rice, seasoned green beans, fresh and chilled fruit, pudding with topping.

Tuesday, March 20: Layered Mexican taco pie with the works, steamed white rice, seasoned corn, fresh and chilled fruit, cornbread muffin.

Wednesday, March 21: Roasted turkey with gravy over mashed potatoes, dinner roll, seasoned peas and carrots, fresh and chilled fruit, sundae cups.

Thursday, March 22: Shaved ham and cheese on whole-wheat bread, baked Doritos, baby carrots, juice box, Oreo cookies.

Friday, March 23: Stuffed crust cheese pizza, salad with lite dressing, fresh and chilled fruit, cookie.

AHS bands to host annual spring concert

The public is invited to the annual Spring Bands Concert presented by the Agawam High School bands at 7 p.m., Thursday, March 22 in the AHS auditorium. Scheduled to perform are the Agawam High School Percussion Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble, and Symphony Band.

"The students have been working very diligently over the past few months and will be performing several very entertaining pieces," said William M. Hueglin, band director. "I am very proud of what they have accomplished."

The AHS Band Parents Association will also conduct a basket raffle during the concert. Basket themes include a beach basket,

garden basket, kitchen basket, and movie basket. Proceeds from the raffle will benefit the high school band program.

March has been designated "Music in Our Schools Month" by the National Association for Music Education. This year's theme is "Music Lasts a Lifetime." The purpose of MIOSM is to raise awareness of the importance of music education for all children – and to remind citizens that school is where all children should have access to music. MIOSM is an opportunity for music teachers to bring their music programs to the attention of the school and the community and to display the benefits school music brings to students of all ages.

Students donate to Rescue Mission



Turley Publications courtesy photo

John Spano, center, president of "The Reservation," the Agawam High School student store class, presents Julie Barnes, right, of the Springfield Rescue Mission, a check for \$220 to help feed the hungry and homeless in greater Springfield. Also pictured is Mike Simpson, business educator and AHS coordinator of the student store.

Campus notes...

Resident earns nursing degree

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah - Catherine Caruso-Draghetti, of Feeding Hills, was awarded a Bachelor of Science Degree in nursing from Western Governors University. The online, non-profit university held its semi-annual commencement ceremony last month in Atlanta, Ga., and celebrated the graduation of more than 2,600 graduates, its largest class ever.

Residents attain college honors

The following residents have been named to the fall dean's list at their respective colleges.

Mass. College of Liberal Arts
– Nicole Proulx, of Feeding Hills.

Westfield State University – Krystina Albano, of Agawam, and Carole Duquette, of Feeding Hills.

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Each Sunday's Open Houses posted Friday at parksquarerealty.com

Agawam High School Counseling bulletin

College Acceptances:
Garritt DiLuzio: UMass Amherst, Quinnipiac University
Amanda Burton: Bridgewater State University, UMass Amherst
Danielle Kodess: UMass Amherst
Adrianna Martinez: Westfield State University
Katelyn Messier: UMASS Amherst
Caitlin Ridenour: Greenfield Community College
Ashley Sprandel: Holyoke Community College
Leah Burns: Pace University, UMass Amherst
Zachary Hanchett: UMass Amherst
Brianna Hurley: UMass Amherst
Peyton O'Brien: Keene State College
Stephanie Roulier: UMass Amherst
John Spano: Westfield State University
Ben Roman: Holyoke Community College
Emily Davenport: Stonehill College
Megan Alaimo: Bay Path College, Drexel University, Montana State University, Western New England University, Wentworth Institute of Technology, New Haven University

Consumer Reports College Guide: Consumer Reports has produced a free guide to help prospective college students navigate the steps in college research and selection. View it online at www.consumerreports.org/college.

Carpenters Apprenticeship Opportunities: The New England Training Fund will conduct interviews to establish an "Eligible Pool of Apprentices Applicants." Open to high school graduates, GED diploma students and high school seniors with a letter from high school

stating they will be graduating by May/June 2012. Applicants must attend one informational session on March 21 at 6 p.m. at 13 Holman Rd. Millbury, MA 01527. Visit www.NECarpentersTraining.org for more information.

Scholarships: See your counselor or visit the websites for more information or an application.

Community Foundation of Western Mass.; Delta Sigma Theta Sorority; MassMutual Scholars Career Pathways Program; Matthews MA Memorial Fund; Mass. Broadcasters Assoc.; Future Fund Scholarship, Westfield Bank; Shire 2012 ADHD Scholarship; Aero Club of New England; Jackie Robinson Foundation; Janice M. Scott Memorial Scholarship; Edward P. Boland Scholarship; Fr. Robert F. Wagner Memorial Scholarship.

Local scholarships (information available on the counseling website): They are all due on April 1 unless otherwise noted: Agawam Democratic Committee; Agawam Soccer; Agawam Golden Age Club; Agawam UNICO; Agawam Junior Women's Club; Andrew Gallano, Agawam Rotary; Agawam Lions Club (April 2); Arthur J. Leary; Agawam Municipal (March 31); Barbara Skolnick, Robinson Park; Charles Heyl, Agawam Rotary; Ray and Reita McCarroll, Agawam Rotary; Chris Knight, Agawam Soccer; Raymond W. Matroni Hockey (March 31); Faolin M. Peirce; Rich Parolo, Agawam Soccer; Florence Bish (March 31); Strive - AHS PTSO; James Clark PTO (March 31); Sullivan Family, Agawam Soccer; Peter Carando, Sr.; West of the River Chamber of Commerce; Mouneimneh Future Teacher, Agawam Jr. Women; West of the River Vocational Chamber of Commerce.

Senior Center golf tourney set for June 6

AGAWAM – The 17th Annual Senior Center Golf Tournament, co-sponsored by Friends of the Agawam Senior Center and the Agawam Rotary, will be held Wednesday, June 6 at the Agawam Municipal Golf Course, 128 Southwick St., Feeding Hills.

Cost is \$300 per foursome (\$80 per individual) until May 24 and \$340 per foursome (\$85 per individual) after May 25. A buffet lunch will be served immediately after play in the upstairs lounge.

There are several ways to participate, sponsorships, business card ads, purchase tee or cart signs or raffle prize donations for the silent auction.

All proceeds will benefit the Friends of the Agawam Senior Center or the Agawam Rotary Scholarship Fund.

For more information, call the senior center at 821-0604 or 821-0605.

Business ideas bloom at Chamber Expo

Event attracts diverse workshops, services, products

By Melissa Fales
Reporter

WEST BROOKFIELD - Representatives from many local businesses gathered at the Salem Cross Inn March 13 for the 11th Annual Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce "Business in Bloom – Idea Expo." The event took place in conjunction with the Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation (QVDC) and the Southern Worcester County Community Development Corporation.

"The idea behind the Business in Bloom expo is to showcase the types of services and products that are offered right here in this region," said Chamber President Lenny Weake.

Over 40 exhibitors participated in the expo. Many rewarded those who stopped by their booth with giveaway items emblazoned with their business logos and all were eager to discuss their business and what it can offer. "The expo is a great opportunity to network," said Weake. "It gives people a chance to see what businesses are doing in the region. It is still a tough economy, but there are a lot of success stories happening in these towns. You can learn a lot by talking to the exhibitors."

This was the second year the QVDC held a conference designed for small businesses offering a series of training workshops at

the same time as the expo. Weake said this type of partnership with the QVDC, helped both events gain more exposure. Susan Rutherford, executive director of the QVDC, agreed with Weake. "Holding the two events together brings in a new mix of people," she said.

Rutherford said the topics for the workshops were chosen based on the subjects that are popular with small business owners who visit the QVDC's Ware site. "We wanted to have a variety of topics," she said. "Some are very generic and others are more specialized." The workshops were led by CDC consultants, Chamber members and other leaders in the business world and included topics such as "How to Manage People Courageously," "Moving Your Business onto the Internet: Getting Started," and "Maximizing Your Marketing Money."

Bruce Henriques, General Manager of M-Pact TV, was filming interviews between Weake and the exhibitors to be featured on the station. Henriques said M-Pact TV has been participating in the Chamber's expos since the very beginning. "This is a great event," he said. "It's a chance to stay connected with other members of the business community."

Exhibitor Jim Gambaro, a photographer from Belchertown, said he participated in his first Chamber expo two years ago. "I love the energy of it," he said. "I've really



Turley Publications photos by Melissa Fales

Bruce Henriques of M-Pact TV talks with Quaboag Valley Business Network International members Jay Shuttle of JCS Custom Carpentry and Jonathan Bechard of Noble Stoneworks.

enjoyed meeting the other vendors."

Jonathan Bechard of Noble Stoneworks was at the expo to promote Quaboag Valley Business Network International (BNI), a group that meets weekly to pass referrals and possible business leads on to its members. Bechard said the Quaboag Valley BNI participated in last year's Chamber Expo and saw its membership grow from the connec-

tions made at the event. "We wanted to be at the Business in Bloom Expo again this year because we know it works," he said.

The event was sponsored by North Brookfield Savings Bank. Other sponsors include Spencer Savings Bank, Motion Automotive Specialty, Community Options, Country Bank for Savings and Crimmins Graveline Insurance Agency.

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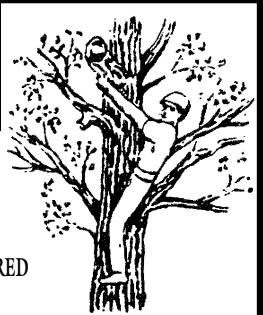
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PLUNGE, from page 1

watch. Additionally, the Ledges Golf Course and PVPA offered up space in their parking lots for the expected crowd. Spectators were shuttled to and from the lots and marina.

“It was over the top!” said Brunelle on Monday of the whole event. “We’re very happy with the end result.”

Originally, the Plunge committee set a goal to raise \$50,000 for the six charities in this year’s event. Their goal was totally attainable, as each year they’ve essentially raised \$20,000 more than the year prior. In 2011, the Plunge raised \$36,000.

But no one had any idea the popularity of the Plunge would garner \$76,000 for charity. Brunelle said he was speechless. And event organizers were astounded by the hard work McCarthy’s Pub in Belchertown dedicated to fundraising for the Plunge. The McCarthy’s Pub team single-handedly raised \$13,445, which they designated for Shriner’s Hospital. “They did a tremendous job,” said Brunelle. “They blew it away, as far as the fundraising goes.” Of course, this won the pub the coveted “Pub Cup” trophy, a new addition to Plunge incentives. The gigantic orange, white and green trophy will find a home inside McCarthy’s Pub for the next year.

Following the actual plunges into the water was a traditional corned beef and cabbage dinner, accompanied by the musical talents of Marc Dobson and The One Man Band, who continued to play for the After Plunge Party. All Plunge attendees were invited to dine and test their luck with extensive raffle baskets and prizes.

Winning this year’s Grand Shamrock Corporate Challenge were the ERA Real Estate team, Team Shriners and Hampshire



A brave man with a Technicolor beard plunges into the cold water of the Connecticut River.

Towing. This was sponsored by Brunelle’s and was awarded to the top three fundraising business groups. Each won a cruise on the Lady Bea with appetizers for 25 people. Each team had to raise at least \$1,000 to qualify.

Team Joey took home the \$500 Pot of Gold award, sponsored by All Stair Dairy. They raised the most money as a non-corporate group.

Matt Baker took home the \$300 Lucky Irishman award, sponsored by R&M Landscaping, given to the non-corporate group which raised the second highest amount of funds.

The Over The Rainbow award of a \$100 gift certificate to 21st Century Pools and Spas was given to the Pantry Plungers group for raising the third highest amount of funds.

Finally, the Hottie Leprechaun award went to Kath Brunelle and Patrick Chehade. They each won a spa day sponsored by Center Day Spa.

Perhaps the most meaningful prize went to Jennifer Pitt, of New York, who plunged with the B-Dock Beavers team. As she ran out of the frigid cold river, her boyfriend, Mike Ferraguzzi, immediately got down on one knee and proposed. “I’m shocked,” said Pitt, as she shivered from both the cold and her nerves. “I wasn’t expecting anything!”

The 2012 Leprechaun Plunge drew participants and crowds from all across the region, and Brunelle hopes the charitable event continues to grow. He’s already begun to plan for the next Plunge. “We’ve had a lot of people want to get on board for next year, and we’re always looking for volunteers,” he said, instructing both interested plungers and behind-the-scenes volunteers to visit the Marina’s website at www.brunelles.com for more information.

Of course, the Plunge wouldn’t be as successful without corporate sponsorships, and Brunelle is also asking for interested businesses to get in touch with him. “We give a special thanks to our sponsors, especially the major sponsors - Mass Tank Disposal, Adam Quenneville Roofing, Sports Authority, Community Self Storage and Fairway Wholesale. With those five sponsors – they really helped us put on this event,” he said.

Having surpassed its set fundraising goal by a landslide, the largest crowd to date and a marriage proposal, it’s unclear how the 2013 Leprechaun Plunge will compare. Although given the rising popularity of the Plunge, it won’t be a surprise if a million-dollar fundraising goal is in the future.

“I think it was great,” said State Rep. John W. Scibak (D-South Hadley). Every one of those charities is important for this community and Pioneer Valley as a whole. It was a great turnout and people had fun.”



Turley Publications staff photos by Kristin Will

Feeding Hills resident Monique Galliher, Joanne Smith, of South Hadley; Diana Hartley, of South Hadley; Becky Alexander, of Granby; Lori Laviere, of Chicopee; and Leslie and Patrick Chehade, of Granby, comprised the team B-Dock Beavers, which raised money for the Dana Farber Jimmy Fund, run into the Connecticut River.

COUNCIL, from page 1

recommended by the rules subcommittee. The sub-committee will combine the functions of the industrial relations, recreation, ad hoc condominium, ad hoc master plan, public safety, and ad hoc personnel subcommittees. Its broader purpose is to handle internal relations with town departments and external relationships with the businesses and citizens in the community.

The administrative subcommittee will handle administrative duties of the council, thus combining the functions of the utilities and street acceptance, licensing, and ad hoc sewer and reorganization subcommittees.

The subcommittees went into effect following one final meeting of the ad hoc sewer committee, which was already scheduled to meet March 8. City Council President Christopher Johnson and Vice President Dennis Perry were scheduled to make subcommittee assignments, as well as select chairs and vice chairs for each of the four subcommittees by March 9. The selections were not announced at presstime.

Discussion of the new subcommittees was very positive, as councilors agreed during a recent workshop that the number of smaller subcommittees had grown too large and it was time to focus the efforts of each committee.

“This will help streamline agenda items

and condense the focus of our subcommittees,” Perry said. “It is important for us to do this now. This is going to help us be proactive in the future.”

Councilor George Bitzas said he was pleased with the work accomplished by the council.

“I do agree we have too many subcommittees,” Bitzas said. “Sometimes less is more. We will have fewer meetings and more accomplishments.”

Councilors served on as many as four or five subcommittees. Then they would also have subcommittee responsibilities during the budget process. All budget subcommittees, including the school budget subcommittee, will remain in place and utilized during the budget cycle in April, May, and June.

There were also several subcommittees which were utilized rarely, such as industrial relations and condominiums. Absorbing those functions with other committees will help save time, Johnson said.

The rules and regulations subcommittee recommended passage of the new subcommittee format with the amendment on the name of the community relations subcommittee. They did discuss leaving the ad hoc sewer committee separate because it currently serves a large function, but the full council ultimately decided to absorb it into the administrative subcommittee.

ACADEMIC A's, from page 1

When Pettazzoni brought her idea to the committee it was immediately accepted. “The committee added the criteria for a cumulative GPA so that students would have an incentive if they had a challenging quarter.”

Still living in Agawam and now a proud grandmother with a granddaughter attending Agawam schools, Pettazzoni said she always tries to attend the annual presentation, but when she can’t she watches it on the town’s community TV channel.

“Honestly, it makes me cry when I see all the students who have achieved this honor each year. I’m always so proud of them.”

Agawam High School Class of 2012 Academic A’s

Megan Alaimo	John Conway	Meghan Fish
Connor Anderson	Stacey Coogan	Rebecca Fondakowski
Christiana Antico	Tawnie Cooley	Christopher Fontaine
Jesse Armfield	William Cotrone	Kyle Fraga
Leisl Bard	Tyler Coughlin	Kara Franqueza
Kyle Beroth	Brittany Cross	Jamie Funai
Liana Blais	Maryanne Cross	Jeffrey Garfield
Shawn Blanchard	Cassidy Cunningham	Dominique Ghidoni
Victoria Bortolussi	Maura Curran	Lucas Giusto
Shawn Bosse	Lucy D’Angelo	Heather Gonyeau
Elizabeth Breault	Caroline Daubitz	Christopher Goralczyk
Ashley Brown	Emily Davenport	Jacob Goudreau
Eric Brown	Elizabeth Deane	Kaley Govoni
Leah Burns	Mary DeForge	Beth Haggerty
Amanda Burton	Quiana Dickson	Zachary Hanchett
Alicia Busco	DiLuzio Garritt	Austin Harpin
Samantha Butt	Timothy Dobek	Dylan Harpin
Malik Calixte	Ebru Dogan	Caitlin Heer
Kelsie Cartwright	Leah Dominique	Ashley Higgins
Ashley Casiello	Alexander Efstratios	Anthony Hollywood
Larisa Cassie	Carl Fancy	William Howe
Dillon Cecchi	Megan Fanning	Brianna Hurley
Danielle Circosta	Alyssa Febo	Ashley Jediny
Benjamin Clinton	Jenna Fenton	Jesse Jergensen
Sara Coache	Kimberly Fiedler	Vera Kaletina
Daniel Colson	Kelli Fieldhouse	Danil Kaptyug
Jacob Conway	Emily Fish	Danielle Kodess
		Alexander Kresock
		Danielle Kupiec
		Erica LaCroix
		Zachary Landry
		Valerie Lattell
		Kathryn Leathem
		Thomas Lemay
		Lauren Lemire
		Gabriella Leon
		Thomas Long
		Evan Lottermoser
		Anna Lovotti
		Samantha Lungarini
		Andrew Magistri
		Danielle Marcoullier

William Marshall
Joseph Martin
Adrianna Martinez
Allison McCluskey
Kylea McGrath
Kaitlynn McLaughlin
Alyssa Meade
Ivanna Melnichuk
Katelyn Messier
Marissa Mias
Christian Mickey
Christian Mickey
Robert Micks
Matthew Montano
Paige Moriarty
Jonathan Muckinhaupt
Jack Murphy
Sarah Murphy
Irene Nesen
Jillian Newton
Kaitlyn Noll
Peyton O’Brien
Brandon Opitz
Lauren Osborne
Cian O’Sullivan

Alexan Paleologopoulos
Nicole Parent
Kara Peters
Zachary Peterson
Ryan Pfau
Courtney Pilon
Timothy Provost
Ashley Putnam
Kayla Quinn
Inna Radionova
Jonathan Reidy
Mikayla Rice
Mario Rigali
Riley Shaylene
Megan Ripke
Collin Ritter
Tyler Roberts
Rachel Robie
Stephanie Roulier
Jeffrey Rovatti
Leticia Santa
Richard Schoolcraft
Gaetano Scuderi
Matthew Settembro

Patrick Shea
Coty Shean
Dasom Shin
Aaron Smith
Scott Smith
Victoria Smith
Carli Sonsini
John Spano
Kathleen Stempel
Ryan Stork
Nicholas Taliceo
Kathy Tang
Alexandria Vatousiou
Kristina Vickers
Christina Vilkhovoy
Brooke Walsh
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Celebrating the shamrock season



Volunteers Pat Murphy and Joann Balakier (pictured here with Mayor Richard Cohen) were full of Irish spirit.

Turley Publications photos by
Connie J. Casagrande



The Friends of the Agawam Senior Center held its annual St. Patrick's Day dinner March 7 complete with corned beef and cabbage, delicious potatoes and, of course, a sweet cake for dessert.



The Agawam Colleen and her court enjoyed dinner with State Sen. Michael Knapik, R-Westfield, and St. Patrick's Parade Committee member Peter McNair.



Joyce Perron, City Clerk Richard Theroux and Hazel Theroux enjoy the festivities.



Celebrating Irish heritage are (from left) Helen Haskell, Arlene Garvey, Mayor Richard A. Cohen, Eileen Lutat, and Lillian Albano.



Almost all of the seats were filled for a delicious dinner.



Friends of the Senior Center President Emile J. Coté presented the Colleen and her court with engraved plaques.



Angelo Pellin, Robert Orr and Vinnie DiLorenzo found the perfect company as they enjoyed their dinner.

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SPORTS

Tigers shut down Brownies in finals

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications Sports Correspondent

WEST SPRINGFIELD – After the first period, winning the Western Massachusetts Division 3A Championship was pretty much a forgone conclusion for the Tigers, which wanted to take no chances as they trounced Agawam, 7-0, in the finals held last Thursday night at Olympia Ice Center.

Spencer Nawrocki led a huge attack with a hat trick as the Tigers used to overwhelm Agawam and their goalie Cam Pinkham, who suffered his first playoff loss in his career and was scored upon for the first time in tournament action after two straight games of scoreless action.

The Tigers scored four goals in just the first period and Agawam had no chance to make a comeback off that as they continued to pour on the pressure.

“We had to take this team seriously,” said Nawrocki. “The last two years, they had come close to us. Last year, we had them down 3-0 and they came back to tie it. This time, we needed to get out to a big lead and keep going on that. We could not afford to let them back into the game. They are a good team.”

South Hadley was formerly Holyoke, renaming itself due to the population of hockey players coming from South Hadley High School. Granby also has a representative on the team. Under the Holyoke uniform, they had three straight playoff wins over Agawam, with the last two coming in the Western Mass. finals.

South Hadley got started early on Jacob Knowles goal. Knowles took a pass from behind the net and shot it home to make it 1-0 just 1:30 into the game.

The Tigers would score 45 seconds later, surprising Pinkham with a shot coming off a faceoff in the Agawam end. Nawrocki took a pass from Doug Sattler, and shot into the upper left of the net to make it 2-0.

Please see HOCKEY, page 18



Turley Publications photos by David Henry sweetdogphotos.com

Agawam’s Luke Jodoin (4) tries to corral a rolling puck.

SPIRIT WAVE



Turley Publications photo by David Henry sweetdogphotos.com

WEST SPRINGFIELD - The “Orange Man” made an appearance at the Agawam-South Hadley Western Massachusetts Division 3A Hockey final at the Olympia Ice Center on Thursday, March 8. The “Orange Man” is modeled after the “Green Men,” who became famous during the Vancouver Canucks run in the Stanley Cup Playoffs last year.

Berkshire U14 boys soccer starts season with strong showing

AGAWAM - The Berkshire Boys U14 soccer team competed in the Scorpion Cup, a nationally recognized tournament, this past weekend at Thayer Academy in Braintree, and posted a 2-1 record over top premiere teams in New England.

The Berkshire team has 12 players from the Agawam U14 boys’ team and four players from Southwick. The team started its weekend arriving at Thayer Academy to the sight of a solid inch of snow covering the artificial turf field for a match against Mass Premier Soccer. Tyler Graves, Brendan Garvey, Timothy Regnier and Anthony Sciartelli all had solid scoring chances in the early half but slick footing made it difficult to convert. Berkshire finally broke through when Regnier sent a cross into the box from 20 yards out that Graves headed to a streaking Garvey who buried the shot for a 1-0 lead. The lead would hold due to the outstanding play of Trevor Lyne and Chris Noto who anchored the defense and Steve Ludtke played excellent in net coming off his line many times to make saves. Sciartelli and Bailey Emerson were solid in the midfield all game.

The team’s second game was against Connecticut state finalist, FSA of

Please see SOCCER, page 20

Wildcats clinch national championship

AGAWAM - The USA Wildcats All Star Cheerleaders qualified to compete in Washington, D.C. at the “Battle at the Capital” cheerleading National Championship held March 3-4.

Many girls from Agawam are members of the Large Junior Level 2 team located in South Windsor, Conn.

In a venue of over 10,000 cheerleaders nationwide, team members took part in a two-day competition. After finishing in first place at the end of day one in their division with a score of 84.42, the next closest team, Dream All Stars out of Gaithersburg, Md., were at their heels with a score of 84.42. The Wildcats knew going into the second day of competition that they really needed to turn up the heat.

On the advice of their coaches, at warm up’s the next morning, they added in an extra barrel to gain more points and impress the judges. They performed flawlessly.

A few hours later at the awards ceremony, the girls anxiously awaited the results. The judges had both the USA Wildcats and Dream All Stars stand as the results were announced.

With a score of 86.27 for USA Wildcats and 85.07 for Dream, it was official. The Wildcats won it by 1.2 points. Each team member took home the coveted national championship jacket and large trophy for their gym. The girls are set to compete in Baltimore, Md., in April and at the U.S. Finals in Providence, R.I. in May.



Turley Publications courtesy photo

Members of the USA Wildcats proudly display their championship trophy. Back row (from left to right): Camille Aloisi, Emily Toughey, Claire Wadlegger and Alyssa Vickers. Middle row: Melissa Montagna, Sam O’Meara and Abby Heinemann. Front row: Brook Szafaran, Emily Oliver and Jenna Forward.

HOCKEY, from page 17

Two minutes later, the Tigers would stay on their tear with a Chris Menard tally. He would take a pass from Ben Kravetz near the blue line and make an excellent shot on Pinkham.

The fourth first period goal for South Hadley came with 6:52 left in the period and was Nawrocki's second goal of the game. The long slap shot until the upper left of the net, a no-man's land for the Tiger players, made it 4-0.

Agawam had a number of power play opportunities during the first and second periods but could not capitalize any. South Hadley did have one power play goal in the

game.

South Hadley is still undefeated at 22-0-1 this season. Their goalie Devin Hoagland needed to make just 14 saves to pick up the shutout.

South Hadley was scheduled to take on the Division 3A champion from Central Massachusetts Groton-Dunstable Thursday night at the MassMutual Center.

Gregory A. Scibelli is a sports correspondent for Turley Publications. He can be reached at gscibelli@turley.com.

Turley Publications photos
by David Henry sweet-
dogphotos.com



Agawam's Billy Wysocki (18) looks to push the puck up the ice.



Agawam's Erik Wagner (17) handles the puck in traffic.



Agawam's Alex Ablianitis (16) carries the puck up the ice.



Agawam's Joe Shea (19) looks to make a move towards the net.



Agawam's James Newsome (9) fires a shot on goal.



Agawam's Todd Ruby (5) looks down at the puck.

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A group of five Springfield Falcons players in their white and blue jerseys are posing for a photo. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. One player in the center is holding a hockey stick.

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A headshot of BenJarvus Green-Ellis, a player for the New England Patriots, wearing a blue jersey.

Agawam takes 5/6 Suburban crown



Turley Publications photos by David Henry sweetdogphotos.com

Pictured above are: standing (from left to right) coach Jim Lockwood, Lauren Blackak, Liz Miliken, Nicole Langevin, Quinn Hunt, Sara Labarski and assistant coach Laura Hunt. Kneeling: Abbie Hoban, Caitlyn Normoyle, CJ Jones and Madison Lockwood.

Right: Agawam's Madison Lockwood (21) dribbles the ball in the open floor.

CHICOPEE - Agawam beat Holyoke to win the Suburban D1 5th/6th grade championship on Sunday, March 11 in the finals at Chicopee High School.



Agawam's Caitlyn Normoyle (22) tries to get around a Holyoke defender.



Agawam's Nicole Langevin (11) eyes the basket before going up with a shot.



Agawam's CJ Jones (2) dribbles the ball up the floor.

ATHLETE of the Week

Scherpa blazing down the snowy trails



Turley Publications submitted photo

Since the eighth grade, Agawam's Chloe Scherpa has competed in the Tri-State League, which features racers from all over the area, including college competitors from Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island.

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – The Agawam skiing season was a successful one for several of the Brownies skiers, including Chloe Scherpa, who placed second in Western Massachusetts last month in the sectional championships.

The junior skier is the choice for the Agawam Advertiser News Athlete of the Week.

Scherpa said she began skiing when she was just 2 years old and became a competitive skier at the just 7 years old.

During her youth years, she competed in different racing leagues.

“When I was just getting started, I raced in an interclub league,” said Scherpa. “It was more of a developmental league for newer racers.”

Since the eighth grade, Scherpa has competed in the Tri-State League, which features racers from all over the area, including college competitors from Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island.

Scherpa made the transition to the high school skiing team because she felt it was the next step in her long line of racing and competitions.

“It [racing] had been such a huge part of my life since I was very young,” said Scherpa. “As a freshman, my older sister was the team captain at the time and it was a great chance to race alongside my older sister, who has been one of my biggest role model throughout my life.”

She says skiing is much different than mainstream high school sports.

“There is a lot of focus on teams and ‘the team’ in high school sports,” said Scherpa. “But skiing does tend to be an individual sport. It can be very frustrating at times knowing you’re the only standing in the way of your success. Unlike a sports game, you don’t get a second chance to make up for your mistakes later. You get one shot, one run (down the hill).”

Scherpa’s skiing goals are never-ending, she says. “Next year, I am hoping for a Western Mass title,” she said. “For both me, and my team.”

In addition to being in the school team, Scherpa plays varsity girls soccer and is a member of the outdoor track and field team during the spring.

This year, Scherpa says her best memory was actually a race she did not do well in.

“But instead of getting upset, we sat in a circle in the snow and ate cookies together, laughing it off,” said Scherpa. “It really allowed me to realize what great friends I had made through this sport.”

Scherpa says she participates in the Student Government and Key Club. She is taking honors and advanced placement classes this year.

Gregory A. Scibelli is a sports correspondent for Turley Publications. He can be reached at gscibelli@turley.com.

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The Beane Pot

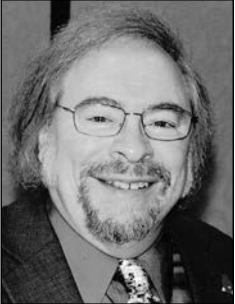
by Carl Beane

Sox ready to atone for 2011

Bruins need to right ship

Hello ladies and gentlemen boys and girls and welcome to the Beanepot. It is still of course very early in spring training, but the reports we are hearing from Fort Myers are mostly very good concerning the Boston Red Sox.

It does appear at least so far that the boys understand just how much they disappointed all of Red Sox Nation with their monumental collapse of 2011. And, while not talking about it directly, just the fact that Bobby Valentine is now the manager is a reminder of just how much things got out of hand. The good news is the players seem to realize this and are taking this seriously. Everybody came into camp early and in shape ready for the increased work load that Bobby V. is putting them through. There is a more business like attitude this time. There is also a new facility to work in with improved conditions in every way. The team is done answering for last year's mess and that's good. On paper this is a good team IF they can remain healthy. Yes, there are some question marks at shortstop and right field but hey, that's what spring training is for to solve these



issues, isn't it? We will keep a close eye on things all season long.

Coach Claude Julien has a dilemma, with the Bruins fading fast and his number one goalie, Tim Thomas clearly tired and off his game what does Claude do? Should he give Thomas a week off and play Marty Turco in some of these must game situations on the road this week or use Thomas to the point of possibly rendering him useless for the playoffs? A tired Timmy isn't the only problem; this team has too many instances of lethargic play and of failing to finish a play with a good shot on goal. This is too good a team to be shutout as often as they have been. When this team is right, they are a good squad but they haven't been for three months now. Julien has tried everything to get this group back on point. If they don't get it together soon they might go from Stanley Cup champs to one and done in the first round of the playoffs and that would be a shame. Amen.

Carl Beane can be reached at cbeane@carlbeane.com or via his website www.carlbeane.com.

SOCCER, from page 17

Farmington. FSA struck about 10 minutes in on a ball the just squeaked over the dive of Ludtke who made a great bid on the save. Sciartelli and Emerson each had good looks on goal and Eugene Cone played well for Berkshire. FSA would find the net later in the game on a long shot that went just over the stretched out arm of Ludtke into the top of the net. JoJo Mozdzanowski and Decklun O'Donnell played well in the 2-0 loss defensively.

The team's final game was against AC Milan of Boston. Sweeper Lyne and midfielder Sciartelli set the tone early by winning balls and building the attack with strong numbers. Berkshire midfielders, Regnier, Sciartelli, Emerson, and Cone completely dominated the game early and often. Berkshire broke through when Lyne hurried to launch a

long throw in to a streaking Emerson who broke through and buried the first goal for a 1-0 lead. Minutes later Berkshire would be awarded a direct kick from about 40 yards out. Lyne set the ball up and drilled the shot of the tournament. Keeping his head and weight over the ball, he drilled a missile of a shot that whistled in the upper corner of the net for a 2-0 lead. Graves finished AC off when he took a pass from Sciartelli and beat the defender to the outside and drilled and hard shot from about 15 yards. Mozdzanowski, Cam Verville, Justin Hersom, and Dylan Buscemi all played their best game and worked hard defensively to stifle any attack.

Ludtke played outstanding in goal all tournament. Despite being half frozen and wet, he made many great saves and really kept the team within striking distance against FSA.



Turley Publications courtesy photo

Trevor Lyne (4) from Berkshire rips a 35-yard shot, while Tym Regnier moves onto goal during Berkshire's 3-0 win over AC Milan.

College Notes

Locals named to MASCAC All-Academic team

BUZZARDS BAY - A total of 320 student-athletes have been honored by the Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference with selection to the league's Winter 2011-12 All-Academic Team that was released earlier this week by Commissioner Angela Baumann.

Student-athletes that compete in championship varsity sports offered by each of the eight MASCAC institutions during the course of the recently completed Fall 2011 academic semester and have achieved a 3.20 cumulative or semester-based grade point average during the semester are eligible for selection to the Winter All-Academic Team.

The following is a list of student-athletes from this area who made the team:

NAME	SPORT	TOWN	SCHOOL
Gaby Gonet	Indoor Track	Sophomore	Westfield State
Nicole Johnson	Basketball	Feeding Hills	Westfield State
Carly Keeley	Track and Field	Feeding Hills	Westfield State

Geiger tallies twice for Bentley

NEW HAVEN, Conn. - Bentley women's lacrosse junior and Agawam resident Cori Geiger had two goals in the team's season-opening 16-3 win over Southern Connecticut on Wednesday, March 7.

Keeley has big game for Lady Owls

SOUTH HADLEY - Westfield State senior midfielder and Feeding Hills native Carly Keeley erupted for four goals, one assist and six draw controls to set the tone for the Lady Owls in a 15-12 loss against Mt. Holyoke on Wednesday, March 7.

Sports Calendar

Youth cheerleading tryout registration continues

AGAWAM - Agawam Youth Cheerleading tryout registration continues through the end of the month.

The cost is \$25 and includes tryout, practice CD and three nights of instruction.

No signups will be accepted after March 30.

Tryouts are open to all students entering grades 3-8 in September.

Participation in tryouts does not guarantee a spot on the squad.

Agawam Youth Football helmet fundraiser

AGAWAM - Agawam Youth Football will hold a helmet fundraiser on Saturday, March 31.

All money collected will be used to purchase new helmets for the players.

The event will take place from 6 to 11:30 p.m. with a buffet dinner starting at 7 p.m. at the Springfield Turnverein, 76 Garden St.

Tickets are \$25 per person.

To purchase tickets please contact Dave DeMatteo at kninejeri@comcast.net or at 413-374-0975, Dawn Dube at Dubester99@comcast.net or at 413-433-1346, Lance Dillard at ldillard55@verizon.net or 413-454-8245, or Amy Mendrala at amendrala@yahoo.com or 413-478-9734.

We are more than willing to deliver tickets to you.

Mwaga's 23rd Annual Lunker Trout Derby set for April 22

AGAWAM - Mwaga's 23rd Annual Lunker Trout Derby is scheduled for Sunday, April 22.

Fishing will take place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 377 Adams St.

The public is welcome.

\$200 first prize for largest trout, \$100 for second third, and \$50 for third place.

Hundreds of dollars in other cash prizes will be awarded.

Full breakfast available after 7 a.m. Lunch available as well. No limit on trout caught. \$15 donation to fish. No fishing license required. For more information, call 413-789-3359.

Feline Friends Golf Tournament

SOUTHWICK - The Feline Friends Golf Tournament will take place on May 20 at The Ranch Golf Club.

The cost is \$160 per person to signup or \$140 if you register early.

The event starts at 12:30 p.m.

The dinner only event is \$35.

Cost includes 18 holes of golf, cart, lunch and dinner.

For more information, call Tonya at 413-364-1808.

Baseball players sought

AGAWAM - Ravens baseball is forming an Under-13 team to play throughout the area this spring. They are looking for talented young people who want to play competitively.

The cost to join the team is \$150.

Anyone who is interested or wants more information is invited to call Dennis Cahalan at 413-222-4808.

Women's softball teams and players wanted

AGAWAM - The Agawam Parks and Recreation Department is looking for women and women's teams to play in a competitive softball league.

Anyone interested should contact Kevin Ross at 413-887-9558.

To get your organization's information placed in the Agawam Advertiser News, contact Sports Editor Dave Forbes at 413-283-8393 ext. 237 or send an email to dforbes@turley.com.

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The Holyoke Sun • Wilbraham-Hampden Times • The Town Common • Town Reminder • Ware River News

Obituaries & Church News

ROBERT J. CAMPANELLA

Robert J. Campanella, 28, of Westfield, entered into eternal rest Saturday, March 3, 2012. Born in Springfield, he lived in Feeding Hills most of his life before recently moving to Westfield. Robert had worked as a line serviceman for Five Star Jet and also did painting for local contractors. He leaves a daughter, Riley Anne Campanella of Northampton; his mother, Barbara A. (Giard) Campanella of Westfield; a sister and her husband, Joyce A. and Moises Rios of Springfield; his paternal grandmother, Theresa (Martel) Campanella of Oldsmar, Fla.; two nieces, Lily Rios and Mia Rios; and several aunts, uncles and cousins. His father, William F. Campanella died in 2003. The funeral was at Southwick Community Episcopal Church with burial at the convenience of the family. Donations may be made to TD Bank, c/o Barbara A. Campanella or Riley A. Campanella, c/o of any branch of TD Bank for a trust fund for Robert's daughter Riley. Agawam Funeral Home was in charge.



CHERYL E. GRAVEL

Cheryl E. (Metcalf) Gravel, 63, of Feeding Hills, died peacefully on Friday, March 9, 2012 at home surrounded by her family and friends. Born in Westfield, daughter of the late Peter and Dorothy (Cross) Metcalf, she lived in West Springfield and was a 1967 graduate of West Springfield High



School. She moved to Agawam in 1974. Cheryl worked as an office manager for Advance Welding. She enjoyed attending Eric Clapton concerts, traveling to Monterey/Big Sur in California and especially taking rides in her Corvette, traveling to the Berkshires and to Marconi Beach on Cape Cod. Cheryl also liked riding her bike, tending to her flowers and spending time with her family and friends and her dog, Reggie. Cheryl's family would like to say a special thank you to the Baystate Visiting Nurse & Hospice staff, especially Amy and Elizabeth and to the hospice chaplain, Carol, for her spiritual guidance and for their friendship and support. She leaves her husband of 41 years, Donald F. Gravel; a son, Michael A. Gravel of Nashua, N.H.; a daughter and her husband, Kathleen A. and Steven Pariseau of Enfield; two brothers and their wives, Peter B. and Anita Metcalf of Wichita, Kan., and William C. and Charlene Metcalf of West Springfield; a sister, Joanne Metcalf of Old Orchard Beach, Maine; a grandchild, Jordyn; a special friend, Winnie Waite; a brother-in-law and his wife, Robert and Janet Gravel of Westfield; and several nieces and nephews. The funeral was at the Agawam Funeral Home, followed by burial in Springfield Street Cemetery. Donations may be made to Make-a-Wish, 181 Park Ave., Suite 12, West Springfield, MA 01089 or to the Children's Miracle Network or the Baystate Visiting Nurse & Hospice, c/o Baystate Health Foundation, 280 Chestnut St., 6th Floor, Springfield, MA 01199.

Sally Rosso, 92, passed away peacefully Tuesday, March 6, 2012 at Heritage Hall Nursing Home where she had resided for three years. She was the wife of the late Francis J. Rosso and the loving mother to Cheryl Nelson and her husband Phillip of West Springfield and Brian Rosso and his wife Tina of Glastonbury, Conn. Sally was born May 4, 1919 in Westfield, the daughter to the late Joseph and Anna (Dekarska) Zelienski. She was predeceased by her brothers, Joseph and Edward Zelienski of Westfield and sisters Ann Wojkiewicz of West Springfield and Helen Gaid of Fords, N. J. Following her graduation from Westfield High School, Sally worked for Steiger's Department Store until she met the love of her life, Fran Rosso, a professional baseball player with the New York Giants organization. From 1943 until 1948 they lived in New York City, Chattanooga, Tenn. and San Francisco, Calif. Fran retired from baseball in 1948, and they moved back to Agawam. Sally worked in the classified department of the Springfield Republican Newspaper for 34 years, retiring in 2001 at the age of 82. Sally spent her leisure time shopping and going to the casinos. She enjoyed vacations with Cheryl, Phil and their family at Hampton Beach, and frequently drove to Glastonbury to spend weekends with Brian, Tina and their family. Sally is survived by the grandchildren she cherished, Lori Nelson of West Springfield, Matthew Nelson and his wife Julie of Westfield, Ashley Rosso of Cambridge, and Alexander Rosso, Esquire of Washington, D.C. In addition she leaves her great-grandchild-

SALLY ROSSO

dren, Emma and Kyle Nelson of Westfield. The Rosso family wishes to thank the entire staff of Heritage Hall South and in particular Nachele McCrae, for giving Sally care, love and compassion during the past three years. The family also wishes to thank Amy Hathaway and the staff of Baystate Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice for providing Sally with the dignity and comfort she deserved. The funeral was from the West Springfield Curran-Jones Funeral Home followed by liturgy in Sacred Heart Church, Feeding Hills. Burial was in St. Thomas Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Baystate Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice at 50 Maple St., Springfield, MA 01102.



Geno J. Yacovone, 75, of Feeding Hills, passed away peacefully Sunday, March 11, 2012 at home. Born in Springfield, son of the late Sabatino and Giovina (Gagliarducci) Yacovone, he later moved to Agawam where he owned and operated a successful excavating business. Having a passion for ice hockey, he became a coach for Agawam youth hockey. He enjoyed ballroom dancing and discussing politics over a cup of coffee. He is survived by a daughter and her husband, Lynda and Tom Dowd of Ludlow and their children, Tyler and Trevor; a son and his fiancé, Marc Yacovone and Stephanie Leahy of Westfield; a sister, Eleanor Martinelli; two nieces, Rosemary Yacovone and Thea Tomaine; a nephew, Richard Yacovone; and a good friend, Robert Mercadante. He was predeceased by a brother, Henry Yacovone. The funeral was at Agawam Funeral Home with burial in Springfield Street Cemetery. Donations may be made to the American Heart Association, P.O. Box 417005, Boston, MA 02241-7005.

GENO J. YACOVONE

'One Great Hour of Sharing' at First Congregational

WEST SPRINGFIELD - The "One Great Hour of Sharing" special offering will be taken on Sunday, March 18 at First Congregational Church, 20 Lathrop St., West Springfield. Church members and friends are invited to know the joy of giving. The dollars given to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) provide health, education, and agricultural training around the world. They also address national and international disasters and help refugees of war and poverty. First Church families were given OGHS coin boxes to fill, and church school children will be invited to bring these forward during morning worship. There is more information about this special offering at www.ucc.org/oghs.

Sunday morning begins with Adult Discipleship Class at 9:15 a.m. Lenten Communion Worship takes place at 10 a.m., with Church school beginning at 10:15 a.m. Refreshments and fellowship take place at 11 a.m. Childcare is provided every Sunday from 9:15 to 11:15 a.m. Information on all ministries and upcoming events can be found at www.firstchurchws.org or by calling the church office at 739-6608.

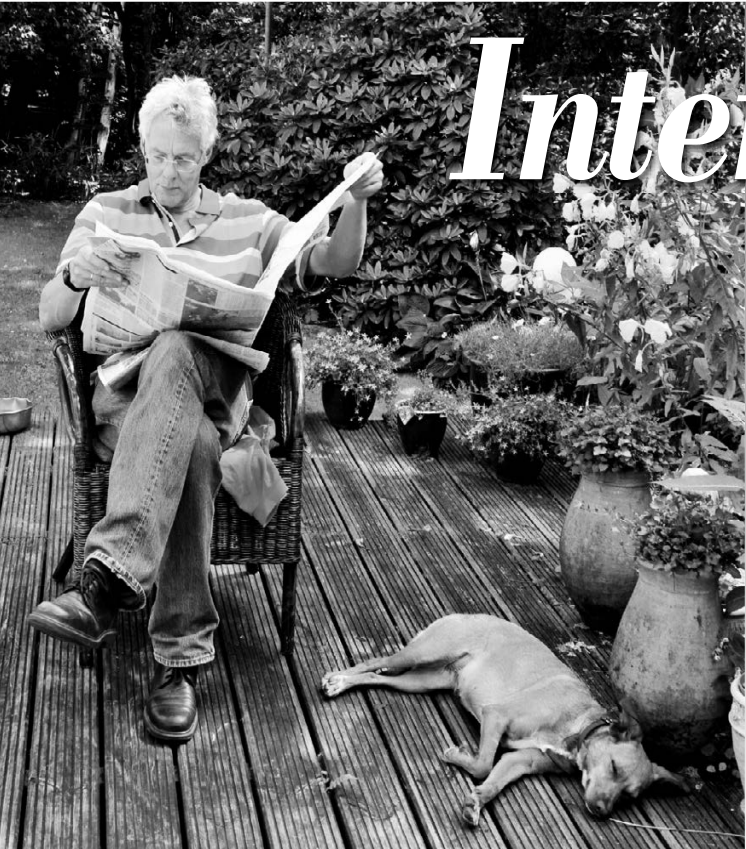
Bethany Assembly of God to present Easter Golgotha

AGAWAM - Bethany Assembly of God in Agawam will present the 2012 Golgotha Passion Week re-enactment, "Hallelujah! Praise the Lamb," in four presentations over Palm Sunday weekend.

Directed by Rev. Ken Bryars, Bethany's minister of music, the choir and orchestra anchor the musical with stirring songs, including "Via Dolorosa," "Hallelujah! Praise the Lamb" and the popular "Glorious Day." This dynamic musical, under artistic director Marilene Allen (Red Door Theatre), begins with the Crucifixion and then recounts the ministry of Jesus in flashbacks, ending with the spectacular Resurrection from the tomb. Bethany's Drama Department will lead up to the grand finale by retracing the ministry of Jesus with his triumphal entry into Jerusalem and his miracles and teachings.

Presentations will be Friday, March 30 at 7 p.m., Saturday, March 31 at 6 p.m., and Palm Sunday, April 1, at 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. All seats are free with no individual reserved seating. Signing for the deaf and a well-staffed nursery for infants will be available during all presentations.

Bethany Assembly of God is located at 580 Main St., on the corner of Route 57 and Main Street in Agawam. For more information, call the church at (413) 789-2930, or log onto www.bethany-ag.org.



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PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN

(never know to fail): O Most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. O Star of the Sea, help me and show me here you are my mother. O Holy Mary Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart, to succor me in my necessity (make request). There are none that can withstand your power. O Mary conceived without sin pray for us who have recourse to thee (three times). Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands (three times). Say this prayer for three consecutive days and then you must publish and it will be granted to you.

-BTS

Business

Park Square agents recognized



Jeff Dubiel



Pam Savioli



Kim Landry



Tim Coughlen

The Park Square Realty Awards and Recognition Breakfast was held last month to recognize the efforts and accomplishments of agents and staff members in both the Feeding Hills and Westfield offices.

Among those recognized were Platinum Club award winners from the Feeding Hills office, Jeff Dubiel, Pam Savioli,

Kim Landry and Tim Coughlen. According to Ted Cassell, president and owner, the Platinum Club is reserved for the top 20 percent of Park Square Realty’s agents who produced over \$2 million in sales volume in 2011.

Coughlen was also recognized for being the top producer for the Feeding Hills Office.

Raffle to benefit Wounded Warrior Project

The Main Street Deli, 141 Main St., Agawam is selling raffle tickets to benefit the Wounded Warrior Project (WWP), a nonprofit organization whose mission is to “honor and empower wounded warriors” of the United States Armed Forces. WWP works to raise awareness and enlist the public’s aid for the needs of severely injured service men and women, to help severely injured service members aid and assist each other, and to provide unique, direct programs and services to meet their needs.

Tickets are on sale now at the deli or may be purchased at the upcoming wine, beer and food sampling scheduled for Friday, Mar 23 from 6-9 p.m.

For more information, call 821-6933.

Hampden Bank charitable giving tops \$716,000

Prepares to celebrate 160th anniversary

SPRINGFIELD - Hampden Bank, the oldest Springfield-based local community bank that will celebrate its 160th anniversary this April, announced last week that its charitable giving for 2011 amounted to over \$716,000 in support of a variety of community organizations and initiatives.

According to Robert A. Massey, a board

member of the Hampden Bank Charitable Foundation, Inc., “Because the need for community support has never been greater, our foundations alone granted a record \$600,000 throughout 2011. Between the natural disasters that have devastated our communities and the overall shrinking of funding in both the public and private sectors due to the economic climate, 2011 proved to be a banner year for requests. We are pleased we could step up and do our fair share.”

In addition to granting \$100,000 in funds for the Red Cross and the Salvation Army for

the tornado relief effort, the Foundation also earmarked \$150,000 in funding for DevelopSpringfield toward the rebuilding effort.

“While these were some of the more significant grants allocated there were dozens of lesser grants to numerous organizations such as the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, Friends of the Soldiers Home of Holyoke, Square One, Rebuild Together and many more organizations,” Massey added.

“In addition to our foundation grants, the bank also provided significant financial support to area communities in excess of

\$116,000 through our marketing and human resources departments’ community relations activities,” said Glenn S. Welch, president and COO of Hampden Bank. Many of these funds were allocated to youth development, school enrichment, and Little League programs throughout Hampden County.

“As we prepare to celebrate our 160th anniversary on April 13, I can think of no better way to mark the occasion than by recommitting ourselves to our long history of community service and support as we move through the 21st Century,” Welch said.

Legal Notices

AGAWAM ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT February 13, 2012

Notice is hereby given that the Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing at the Agawam Public Library Conference Room, 750 Cooper Street, Agawam, MA on **Monday, March 26, 2012 at 6:30PM** for all parties interested in the appeal of the Nancy Morris, DVM, who is seeking a Special Permit in accordance with Section 180-12 of the Town of Agawam’s Zoning Ordinances to allow for an animal hospital at the premises identified as 1775 Main Street.

Doreen Prouty Chairperson
Agawam Board of Appeals
3/8,3/15/12

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD12C0037CA

In the matter of: Steven Michael Crosier Of: Southwick, MA NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

To all persons interested in petition described:

A petition has been presented by **Steven M Crosier** requesting that: **Steven Michael Crosier** be allowed to change his/her/their name as follows:

Steven Michael White

If you desire to object thereto, you or your attorney must file a written appearance in said Court at: Springfield on or before ten o’clock in the morning (10:00 a.m.) on: 3/26/2012

WITNESS, Hon. **Anne M Geoffrion**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 7, 2012
Thomas P. Moriarty Jr.
Register of Probate
3/15/12

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103

(413)748-7758 Docket No. HD12P0391EA In the Estate of: Barbara H Kerr Late of: Feeding Hills, MA 01030 Date of Death: 01/06/2012 NOTICE OF PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, a petition has been presented requesting that a document purporting to be the last will of said decedent be proved and allowed, and that **Timothy J Kerr** of Feeding Hills, MA be appointed executor/trix, named in the will to serve Without Surety.

If you desire to object thereto, you or your attorney must file a written appearance in said court at: Springfield on or before ten o’clock

in the morning (10:00 a.m.) on: 04/02/2012

In addition, you must file a written affidavit of objections to the petition, stating specific facts and grounds upon which the objection is based, within thirty (30) days after the return day (or such other time as the court, on motion with notice to the petitioner, may allow) in accordance with Probate Rule 16.

Witness, Hon. **Anne M. Geoffrion**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 5, 2012
Thomas P. Moriarty, Jr.
Register of Probate
3/15/12

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court

Probate and Family Court Hampden Division 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-8600 Docket No. HD12P0391EA MUPC SUPPLEMENTAL NOTICE

Estate of: Barbara H. Kerr Date of Death: January 6, 2012

To all persons who may have an interest in the above-captioned estate, the Division of Medical Assistance and, if interested, to the Office of the Attorney General and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs:

Notice is being sent to you as you may have a legal interest in this case, in order to inform you of your rights.

Under the new Massachusetts Uniform Probate

Code Inventory and Accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can Petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to Petition the Court to Institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of the appointed Personal Representative.

Petitioner requests to be permitted to file a MUPC Bond.
3/15/12

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May 3 11am-1pm May 8 5:30pm-7pm May 16 5:30pm-7pm	May 21 11am-1pm May 24 5:30pm-7pm May 31 5:30pm-7pm June 4 5:30pm-7pm				
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Visit www.ludlowbgc.org to view our Summer Camp Brochure or to print our Camp Application. To make a private appointment, please contact Desiree LaBrecque or Sheri Santos at 583-2072 or email dlabrecque@ludlowbgc.org or ssantos@ludlowbgc.org.



Ludlow Community Center / Randall Boys & Girls Club
91 Claudia’s Way – Ludlow, MA 01056 – 413.583.2072
www.ludlowbgc.org

HOW TO SUBMIT LEGAL NOTICES

All legal notices to be published in the *Agawam Advertiser News* should be sent directly to klanier@turley.com. Karen Lanier processes all legal notices for this newspaper and can answer all of your questions regarding these notices. Please indicate the newspaper and publication date(s) for the notice(s) in the subject line of your email. For questions regarding coverage area, procedures or cost, please call Karen directly at 413-283-8393 x271.

Turley Publications, Inc. publishes 15 weekly newspapers throughout Western Massachusetts. Visit www.turley.com for more information.

SUMMER Camp

Directed by

Choosing the right summer camp

It can be difficult to envision warm summer days when the wind is blowing and the snow is falling. However, the winter months are a great time to explore summer camp options. In fact, many camps have strict enrollment time-lines that require decisions to be made prior to spring.

Attending summer camp has been a tradition in the United States for more than 150 years. Statistics indicate that around 30 million American kids attend summer camp each year. There are many benefits to summer camp. Camp enables children to stay engaged during the sum-

mer when there may be limited interaction with school friends. It also gives parents both a safe and viable daycare solution during the summer.

Summer camp pulls together children from different neighborhoods, social classes and backgrounds, which can make it a good place to meet new people -- some of whom may become lifelong friends. Camps also provide a variety of activities that can challenge children to try new things that go beyond their comfort zones.

Some children are very receptive to the idea of attending summer camp. Others

need a little coaxing. But summer camp should never be forced on a child who does not want to go. In such instances, consider local daytime programs that may fill the void instead of programs that require being away from home. Once the decision for summer camp is made, there are some questions to answer.

- What are your finances like? Do you have a budget for summer camp?
- What size camp do you desire?
- Should the camp be co-ed or single sex?
- How far do you want your child to travel for summer camp? What are the

options in your area?

- Are there any camps that have been recommended by friends or family members?
- What kinds of activities do your children enjoy?

These types of questions will help you narrow down your options. Then you can visit and interview camps to find one that is the best fit. When visiting camps, go armed with a checklist of questions. Some of these can include:

- What is the philosophy of the camp?
- Can you explain a typical day?

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*We follow the Belchertown School Calendar. Part-time minimum 2 days

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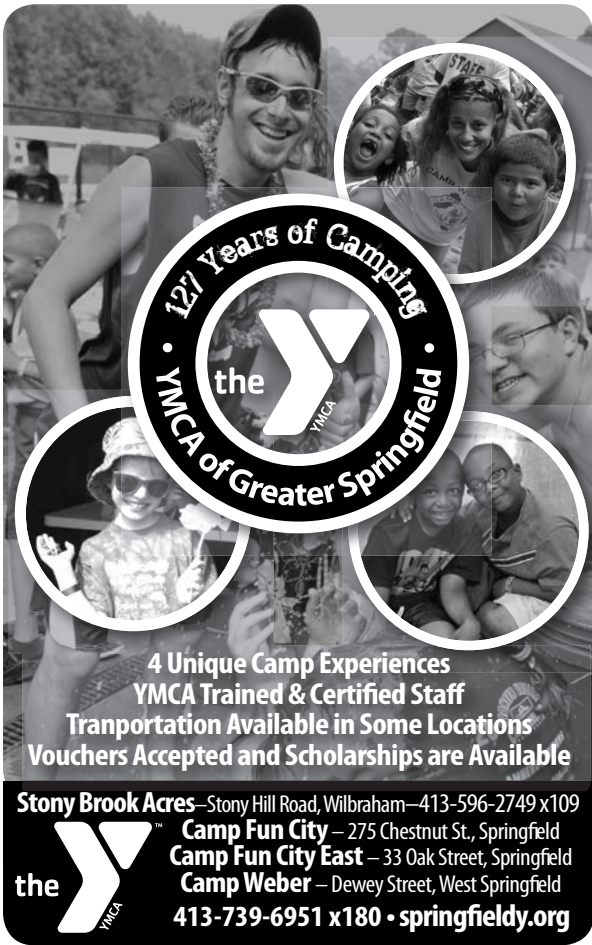
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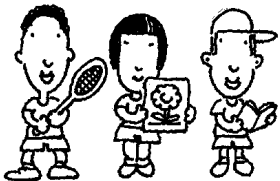
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Summer Camp Directory

- What are the types of activities and facilities offered?
- What is the camper-to-counselor ratio?
- What is the camp's drug/alcohol policy?
- Does the camp have insurance and security personnel?
- What percentage of staff return each year? How are staff selected and trained?
- What kind of health care is provided?
- Can you tell me about the policy on phone calls and family visits?
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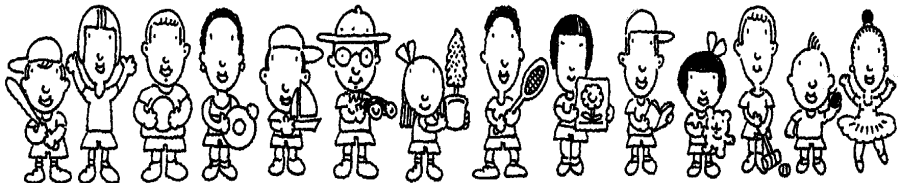
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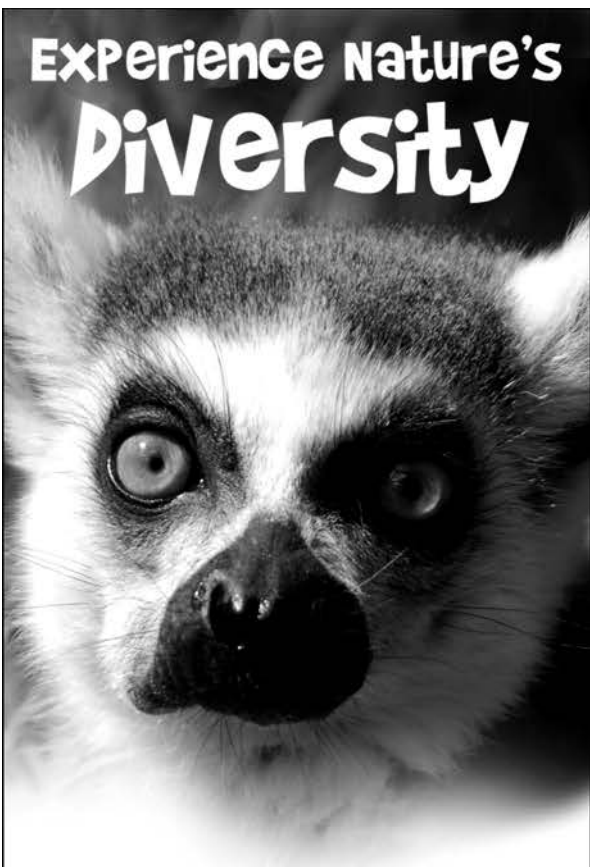


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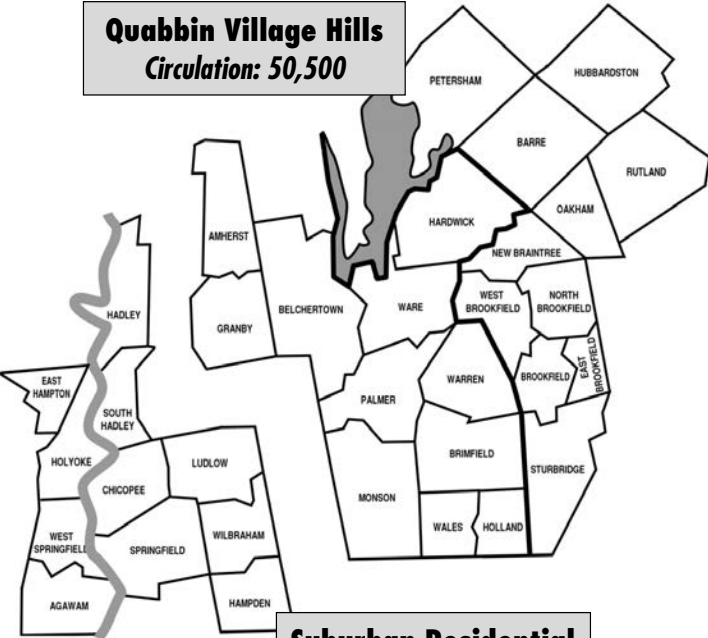
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Sammy - 9 y.o. red male, used to home life, sweet disposition, likes to snuggle, loves to walk on leash and ride in the car, would like a quiet household, seems to be cat safe

Call **Mary (413) 566-3129** or **Claire (413) 967-9088** or see us **March 17** at **Petco Holyoke Crossing 11 a.m to 1 p.m**
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AEROBIC INSTRUCTORS JOB Posting #012-2012. Cert. land and water inst. for AM/PM classes in Wilbraham & Belchertown. Friendly and outgoing individuals encouraged to apply. Application/resumes accepted until 4/1/12. Please refer to JP # when applying. YMCA of Greater Springfield, 275 Chestnut Street, STE One, Springfield MA 01104 or on-line at www.springfieldy.org or send resume to jobs@springfieldy.org AA/EOE

ASSIST IN PRODUCTION/OPERATIONS: Entry level; opportunity to advance. Must be accurate, mature, and have good math skills. Details at www.creativematerial.com/employment

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C.N.A. OR HOME Health Aide needed for 4pm - 8pm shifts 20 hours/week at Assisted Living Facility. Must be reliable, energetic and personable. Pleasant working environment. Apply in person at the Arbors at Amherst, 130 University Drive, Amherst, MA 01002 **413-548-6800**

CERTIFIED HHA/CNA NEEDED in Amherst, Belchertown, Brimfield, Monson, Palmer, South Hadley, other towns also. Must have a car. Call Heather **(413)583-2005** EXCEL HOME CARE.

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GROUNDKEEPING/LABORER GENERAL MAINTENANCE, grounds keeping, laborer wanted. Mechanical skills a plus. We are looking for energetic, able bodied person to fill this part time seasonal position from April-November in the Belchertown area. This job entails 5 days a week 6 hours a day. If interested in this position please send a resume to: Pine Valley Plantation Co-op., 281 Chauncey Walker St., OFC 30, Belchertown, MA 01007.

LOCAL CONSTRUCTION COMPANY now taking applications for the following positions:

- Driver/ Laborer (Class A or B CDL)
 - Laborers
 - Equipment Operators
- If interested please call **(413)599-1994** or apply within at 2378 Boston Road, Wilbraham, MA 01095.

PRINTING MACHINE TECHNICIAN \$13.00-\$17.00/hour - Easthampton 12 hour night shift rotating. For more information visit unitedpersonnel.com job # 53014

STAFFING AT COLD Spring Country Club
Food & Beverage- cooks (Serve Safe certified preferred), bartenders, servers, bev. cart attendants (TIPS certified preferred), dishwashers, P.M. cleaner.
Golf- Starters, rangers, cart attendants (must be 18 years of age).
Please send resumes to careercoldspringcountryclub@gmail.com or pick up application at White House, 336 Chauncey Walker St., Belchertown. Hours of operation M-F 8-5.

THE REWARDS ARE ENDLESS- become a Foster Parent! Call today to learn about working with children and adolescents with special emotional needs. \$350 weekly tax free stipend. Call Devereux Therapeutic Foster Care at **413-734-2493.** See us on facebook!

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YOUTH RECREATIONAL SPORTS INSTRUCTORS
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HARDWICK: Antique Cape with acreage 13.49 to be exact. Over 1900 sf, large garage/carriage shed, stone walls and some recent updates. Country home so call today. \$175,000

WARE: Near Park this Colonial could be a charmer with a little TLC. Three bedrooms, nice kitchen, good room sizes. Covered porches. \$110,000

WARE: Two bedroom Ranch on dead end street, well maintained with many updates including roof. Take advantage of the solar hot water. Three season porch. \$155,000

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Real Estate



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BELCHERTOWN – Sunny Condo close to Amherst line offering 3BR, 3BA, cathedral ceiling, open living areas, master suite, space for office and additional living area in basement. (71346952) **\$235,000**

NEW LISTING



BELCHERTOWN – Colonial 3BR, 2.5BA in desirable location. Kitchen with granite counters, French doors from dining area to spacious deck. Master suite, central air, bsmt. gameroom. (71348097) **\$284,500**

NEW LISTING



BELCHERTOWN – Village Residential Building 1.12 acre Lot with town water, town sewer, walk to everything convenient, yet very private. (71345707) **\$125,000**



WARE – Very well maintained two-family Home with 4BR, 2 full and 2 half baths. Great sized rooms and close to town center. Great tenants-earn extra income! (71256957) **\$150,000**



LUDLOW – Dutch Colonial 4BR Home on a quiet street in a popular neighborhood. Ready to move in! Gleaming hardwood floors throughout. Newer kitchen and bathroom. Spacious! (71327055) **\$225,000**



BELCHERTOWN – Cape offering 2BR, and 1BA with 1,437 sf. on nearly a half acre near town center. Large rooms, wood floors. Spacious yard w/ blueberry bushes. Finish 2nd floor. (71327679) **\$192,500**

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JonesRealtors.com

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ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

PALMER THREE RIVERS. Country Manor apartments, 1 bdrm, \$630, 2 bdrm, \$730 month. All units renov. w/disposal, dishwashers, microwave, elec. range, carpets. Parking, fishing and playground. Cats okay. Call **413-283-9472.**

PALMER BONDSDVILLE 1 & 2 bedrooms \$650 & \$750 mo. includes heat & HW, parking available, on site laundry. No pets. Available 3/1/2012 **(413)736-8987**

For Rent

FOR RENT



All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

LUDLOW 3 BR, 1st flr, appls. inc., no utils, no pets, w/d h/u in bsmt. 1st & last, sec, \$850/mo. **413-265-1569**

LUDLOW 4 RM apt. Private park. Stove, refrig. incl. Near bus line. 1st & last. No pets. **413-543-5326.**

LUDLOW BEAUTIFUL 2 & 3 BR

apts. Newly renovated. Available now. Call **(413)785-5668.**

PALMER. 4 BR NICE, CLEAN, large kitchen, pantry, yard. Pet OK, off-street parking. \$1,100 a month **(413)883-3729, (781)235-1739** or **(413)289-6247**

For Rent

LUDLOW ONE BEDROOM plus office luxury apt. Island kitchen, open floor plan, all modern appliances, ac, WD. private entrance, extra storage, parking \$1,100 includes heat, HW, electricity. **(413)583-2517.**

PALMER. LG. STUDIO. Laundry on premises, off-street parking, w/w carpeting, quiet, convenient location. **(413)454-1201.**

WESTFIELD 2 BR. Excellent condition/ location. Hardwood floors, large bathroom, hugh closets, gas heat, deck, yard, no smoking \$900+ **(413)786-7107.**

WILBRAHAM COLONIAL 8 room, 3+ bedroom, newly remodeled on 1 acre. Private backyard. \$1350/mo plus utilities. **(413)427-4130**

Commercial Rentals

NEED OFFICE SPACE for Cheap? Personal Cubicles/ Work Spaces, Internet, Kitchen, Private offices, Conference Room Space. Located on High Street in the heart of Holyoke's Downtown! All for just \$250.00 per month. Interested parties please contact Lucas Walsh at **(617)367-3434 (Ext. 222)**

Vacation Rentals

FOR RENT: ONE week at the largest timeshare in the world. Orange Lake is right next to Disney and has many amenities including golf, tennis, and a water park. Weeks available are, Mar. 25-Apr. 1, Apr. 1-8, Apr. 8-15, 2012. (Sun. to Sun.) \$850 inclusive. Email: carolaction@aol.com

Vacation Rentals

WARM WEATHER IS year round in Aruba. The water is safe, and the dining is fantastic. Walk out to the beach. 3-bedroom, weeks available in May 2012 and more. Sleeps 8. \$3500. Email: carolaction@aol.com for more information.

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DONATE YOUR CAR & receive free \$2,000 grocery savings coupons. IRS Tax Deductible. Free tow. All cars. Any condition. **1-855-CURE-KIDS (1-855-287-3543).** Visit: www.ACureforKids.org

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Out & About

Send all community calendar items to the Agawam Advertiser News at aan@turley.com, fax to 786-8457 or mail to 23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030. Please list time, date and place of event, contact information and a brief description of the activity involved. Deadline for all community submissions is noon on Monday.

Friday, March 16

THE SWINGLES SQUARE DANCE CLUB will hold a Mainstream Dance from 8-10:30 p.m. (early rounds from 7:30-8 p.m.) at the East Longmeadow Senior Center, 328 North Main St., East Longmeadow. This will be the Sadie Hawkins Dance. Cost is \$7 per person; singles and couples welcome, spectators free. For more information, call Dick Walker at (413) 525-3324.

Monday, March 19

The Agawam Public Library will host "AuthorTalk" with Ellen Evert Hopman, author of "Priestess of the Fire Temple: A Druid's Tale," at 7 p.m. This is Hopman's third book in the "Priestess of the Forest" trilogy. For more information, visit www.elleneverthopman.com. To register, call 789-1550 ext. 8859 or visit www.agawam-library.org. Books will be available for purchase and signing at this event.

Tuesday, March 20

THE AGAWAM CULTURAL COUNCIL will sponsor a reception to celebrate and honor winners of the Second Annual Writing Competition at the Agawam Public Library at 7 p.m. Winners in all categories that qualified for judging will share their work for the audience's enjoyment. Light refreshments will be served after the presentation.

THE AGAWAM SENIOR CENTER will host a free movie at 12:30 p.m. ("I Don't Know How She Does It"). The public is welcome.

KNITTING INSTRUCTOR SANDY ELLIS is at the Agawam Public Library the first Tuesday of the month now through May at the Adult Drop-In Sit & Knit program to offer troubleshooting help and introduce new projects as well. Adult Drop-In Sit & Knit meets Tuesdays from 1-3 p.m. at the library and anyone is welcome. It is for adults 18 and older and no registration is necessary.

THE AGAWAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH FAMILY PLAY GROUP offers crafts, stories, songs, free play and more on Tuesdays from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Playgroup is open to children birth through age 5 with a parent or caregiver, and takes place at the church located at 745 Main St. For more information, email jbrownacc@verizon.net or call the office at 786-7111.

FIRST PARK MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH, corner of Forest Park Ave. and Garfield Street in Springfield, has a Prayer Shawl Ministry that meets every Tuesday at 2 p.m. in the church parlor. Participants enjoy fellowship while creating shawls for those who need them. Every level of knitting or crocheting is welcome. The public is invited to join. For more information, call the church office at 734-1715.

Wednesday, March 21

THE WESTFIELD ATHENAEUM will present downtown Arboretum Project board member Cynthia Hartdegen at 7 p.m. in the Florence Rand Lang Auditorium as part of its spring lecture series. Topic will be "New Standards for Tree Care at Home and on the Streets." The lecture is free and

open to the public. Refreshments will be served. For more information, call (413) 562-0716 or visit www.westath.org.

THE CHILDREN'S PLAY GROUP of First Park Memorial Baptist Church, corner of Forest Park Avenue and Garfield Street in Springfield, meets every Wednesday from 10-11:30 a.m. This is an opportunity for mothers or fathers and their pre-school age children to get-together and socialize, share, play and laugh. For more information, call the church office at (413) 734-1715.

Thursday, March 22

THE SPRINGFIELD MUSEUMS AT THE QUADRANGLE will present "Know Thyself - The Van Gogh Self-Portraits: Decoding an Artist's Life," with Charles Hayward, M.F.A., art historian, at 12:15 p.m. in the Museum of Fine Arts, at 21 Edwards St., Springfield. Admission is \$4 (\$2 for museum members). Parking is free. For information, call (413) 263-6800, ext. 488.

UPCOMING AND ONGOING

A RUMMAGE AND TAG SALE will take place at Foster Memorial Church's Fellowship Hall, Friday, March 23 from 4 to 7 p.m. and Saturday, March 24 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The church is located at the corner of Wilbraham Road and Parker Street in 16 Acres Center, Springfield. A \$3 per bag "Bag Sale" will be held from 1:30 to 2 p.m.

THE AGAWAM FAMILY AND COMMUNITY PROGRAM will host an Early Childhood Information Fair, Saturday, March 24 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Agawam High School cafeteria. Family activities will include a Teddy Bear Health Clinic, Shriners clowns, and MYCHIP, providing free children identification kits. The public is invited to this free event.

THE SPRINGFIELD ARMORY NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE honors the service of Women Ordinance Workers (WOWs) during a special presentation in the museum theatre Saturday, March 24 from 1:30 to 3 p.m. Several veteran women workers will share their experiences at the Springfield Armory in-person. Admission is free. For more information, call (413) 734-8551 or visit www.nps.gov/spar.

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS will hold a community blood drive Friday, March 30 from noon to 6 p.m. at the Agawam Fire Dept., 800 Main St. All eligible and new blood donors are encouraged to give blood. In March, all presenting donors will receive a coupon for a free lunch pack at Cumberland Farms. To make an appointment, call (800) RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit redcrossblood.org.

AGAWAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, 745 Main St., will host its annual "Giant Tag Sale," Saturday, March 31 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The sale will include a bake sale, fresh popcorn, clothes and accessories, toys and games, books, kitchen articles, household items and more. Vendors welcome; tables available. For more information, call the church office at 786-7111.

THE AGAWAM PUBLIC LIBRARY will host Cynthia Laino, from CW/MARS, Saturday, March 31 from 1-3 p.m., who will present a program explaining the ins and outs of digital devices and how to borrow electronic materials from the library. Advance registration is a must. Call Wendy McAnanama at 789-1550 ext. 8865 or email wmcananama@agawamlibrary.org.

A CARD, COIN AND MEMORABILIA SHOW will be held Sunday, April 1 from

Wildlife awaits...



Turley Publications photo courtesy of Randy Ennis

Agawam Advertiser News reader Randy Ennis, a resident of Feeding Hills, sent us this photo of a deer that had visited his back yard earlier this month. Do you have a photo you would like to share with our readers? Send it to Editor Jennifer Wroblewski at jwroblewski@turley.com.

9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Chicopee Boys and Girls Club, 580 Meadow St. Admission is \$1; kids under 10 are free. There will be over 40 tables, a door prize drawing every 30 minutes, and the club is handicap accessible. For more information, call (413) 593-6046.

PROJECT BREAD'S WALK FOR HUNGER will be held Sunday, May 6. The 20-mile route weaves through Boston, Brookline, Newton, Watertown, to Cambridge, and includes entertainment and free snacks. Registration is from 7-9 a.m.

on the Boston Common. For more information, visit www.projectbread.org or call (617) 723-5000. If you or someone you know is struggling to put food on the table, call Project Bread's FoodSource Hotline at (800) 645-8333.

YOUR CAR, TRUCK OR CAMPER may be worth more as a donation than a trade-in. Call the Massachusetts Association for the Blind at (888) 613-2777 for more information. Towing is free. All donations are tax deductible.



Chicopee High School and Chicopee Comprehensive High School

AAA Members save \$75 and all graduates receive a FREE AAA Membership!

Next session starts March 27th Register Today!

1-800-622-9211 or AAA.com/DrivingSchool

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